



IMPOSTER IN OUR MIDST

Lord Ivanovic is dead. Akira and the members of Beowulf have averted all-out war with the three vampire clans and prevented the Bund's nuclear reactor from going critical and raining down radioactive fallout across the entire Kantou region. The costs have been high, friends have been lost, and the blows keep coming.

In response to the repeated assassination attempts on her life, Mina Tepes' policies have taken an overly hardline approach, if not erratic and unpredictable. When the truth finally comes out—that this Mina Tepes is an imposter—there will be hell to pay.

OLDER TEEN (16+)

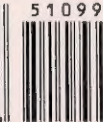
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MANGA



Seven Seas

Tamaki Nozomu Presents Dance In The Vampire Bund 10

DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND

10

NOZOMU TAMAKI

Wir sind Dickhäuter,

wir strecken die

Hände nacheinander aus,

aber es ist vergebliche Mühe,

wir reiben nur das grobe Leder aneinander ab,

wir sind sehr einsam.

We are all of us beasts,

clothed in a thick skin.

We reach our hands out to one another...

but it is useless.

Our hands may touch, but none can tell.

For all we are doing is rubbing one

unfeeling hide against another.

We are, each and every one of us...

Alone.

Buchner, Dantons Tod, Act 3

Dance In The Vampire Bund 10

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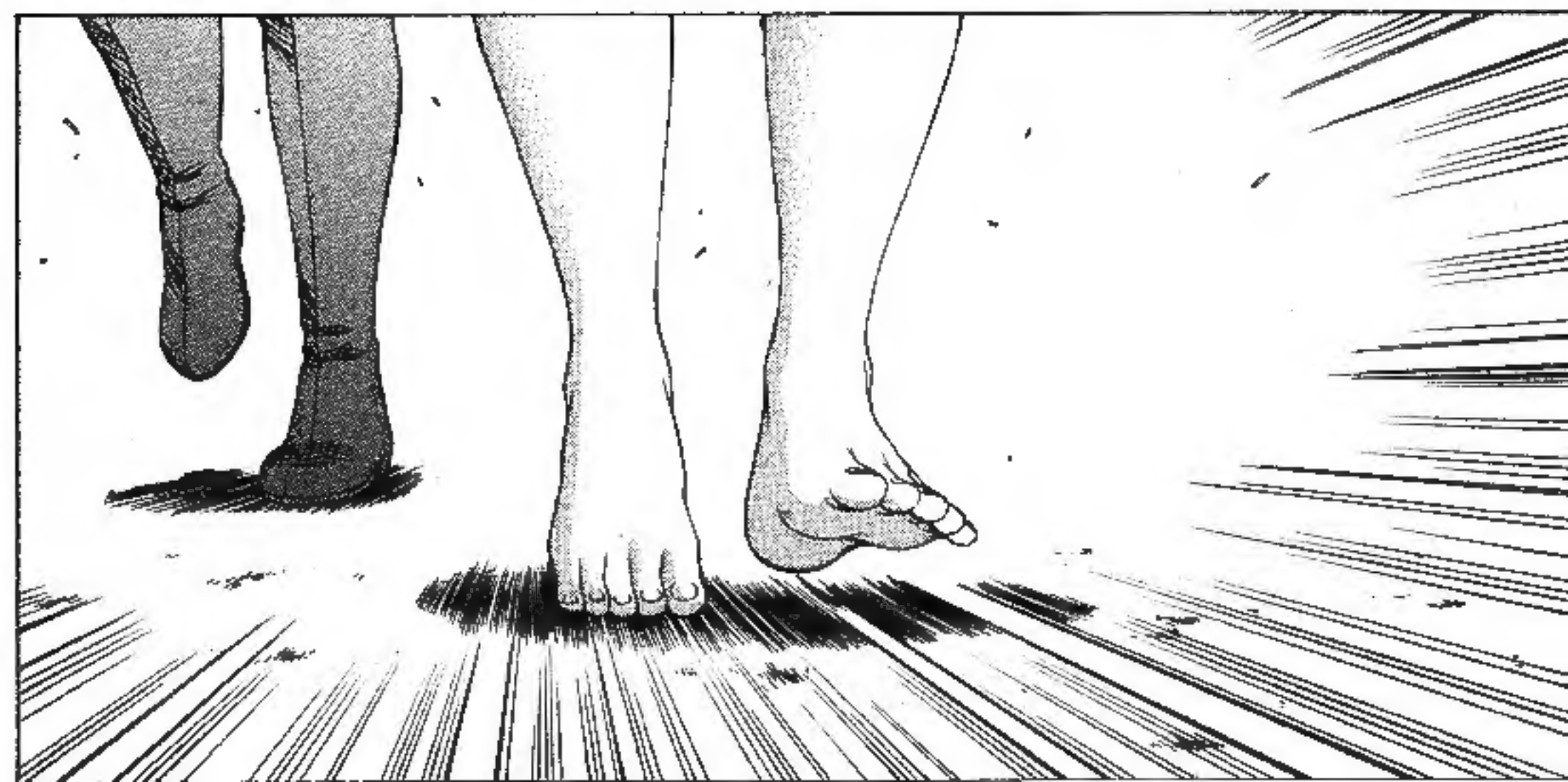
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Tamaki Nozomu Presents Dance In The Vampire Bund 10









Chapter 54: Doppelgänger



HER
MAJESTY
HAS
RETURNED
!!

YOUR
MAJESTY!

THERE
SHE IS!
YOUR
MAJESTY
!!





HOW-
EVER
...

ROUND UP THE
REPROGRAMMED
CITIZENS AND
REPROGRAM
THEM YET AGAIN
TO BE OUR
LOYAL SUBJECTS.
ONCE THAT
IS COMPLETE,
YOU MAY
RELEASE
THEM.



AS FOR
THE
COMMON
CITIZENS
WHO WERE
REPRO-
GRAMMED,
I BELIEVE
THAT IS
OBVIOUS
ENOUGH.

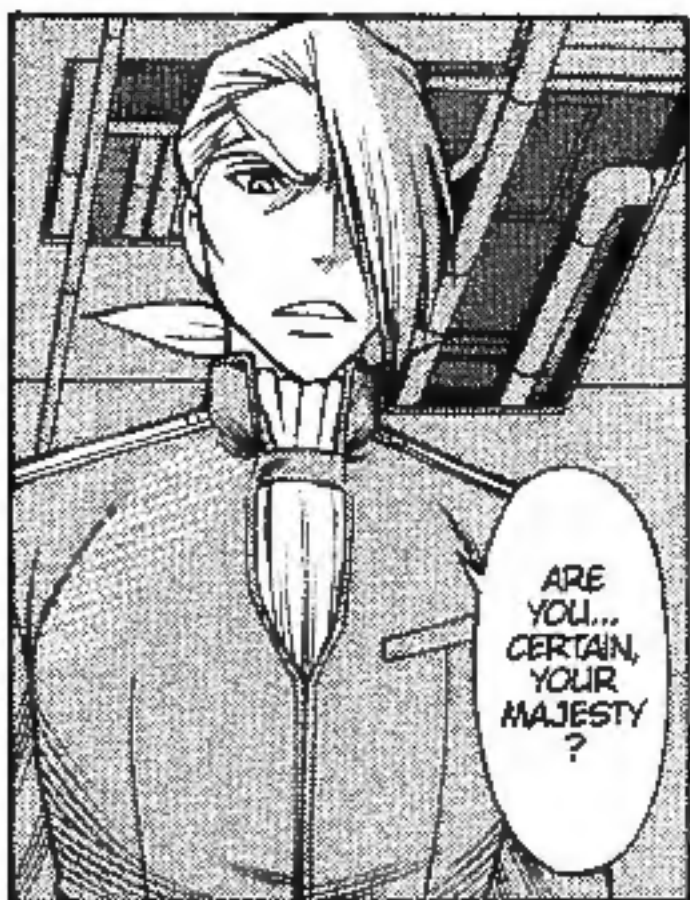
IVANOVIC'S
PERSONAL
GUARD
HAS LOST
ALL WILL
TO FIGHT.

THEY
HAVE
THROWN
DOWN
THEIR
WEAPONS
AND SUR-
RENDERED.

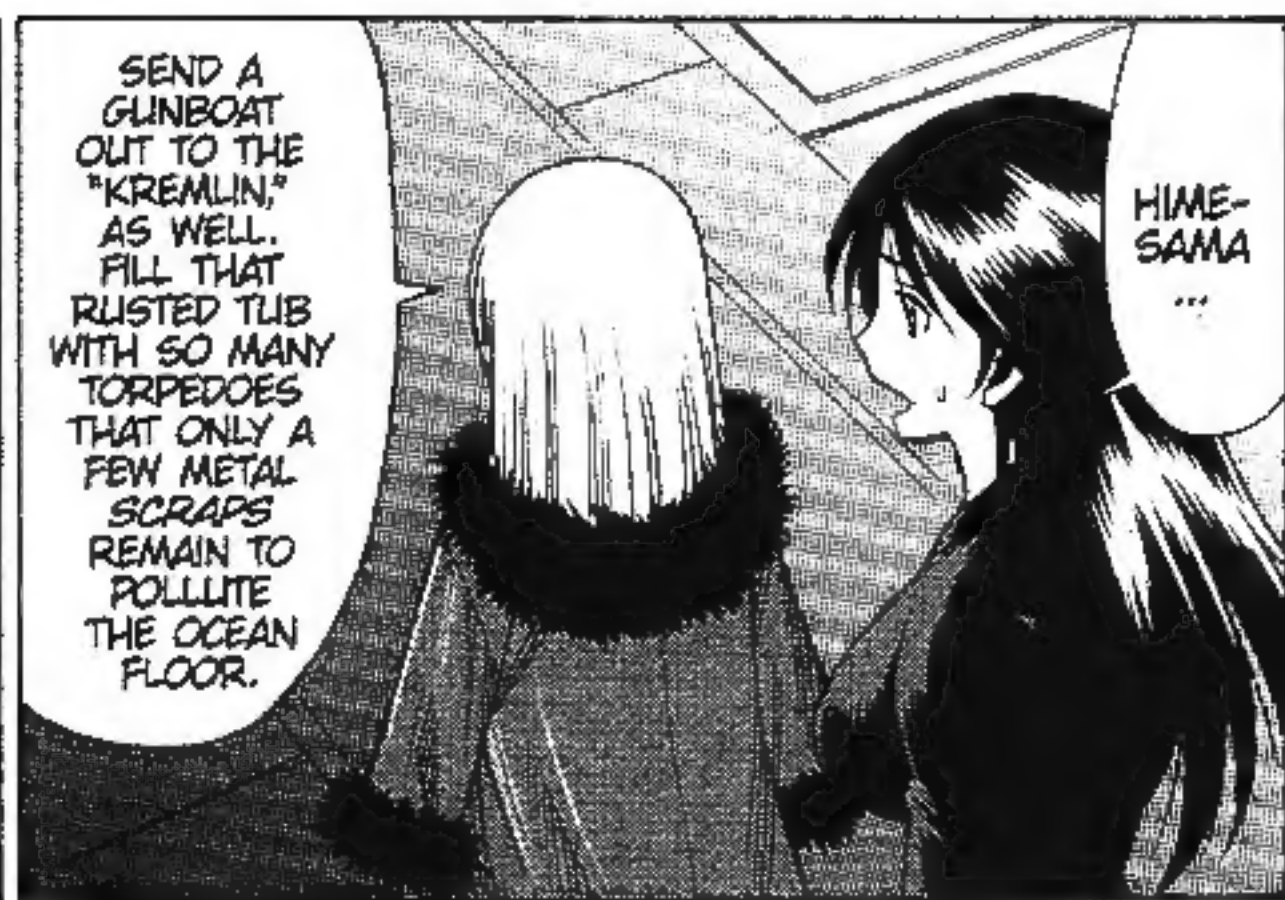


I WANT
EVERY
LAST ONE
OF THEM
TURNED
TO ASH
BEFORE
THE HOUR
IS OUT!

THERE WILL
BE NO SUCH
MERCY FOR
IVANOVIC'S
LACKEYS.
KILL THEM!



ARE
YOU...
CERTAIN,
YOUR
MAJESTY
?



SEND A
GUNBOAT
OUT TO THE
"KREMLIN,"
AS WELL.
FILL THAT
RUSTED TUB
WITH SO MANY
TORPEDOES
THAT ONLY A
FEW METAL
SCRAPS
REMAIN TO
POLLUTE
THE OCEAN
FLOOR.

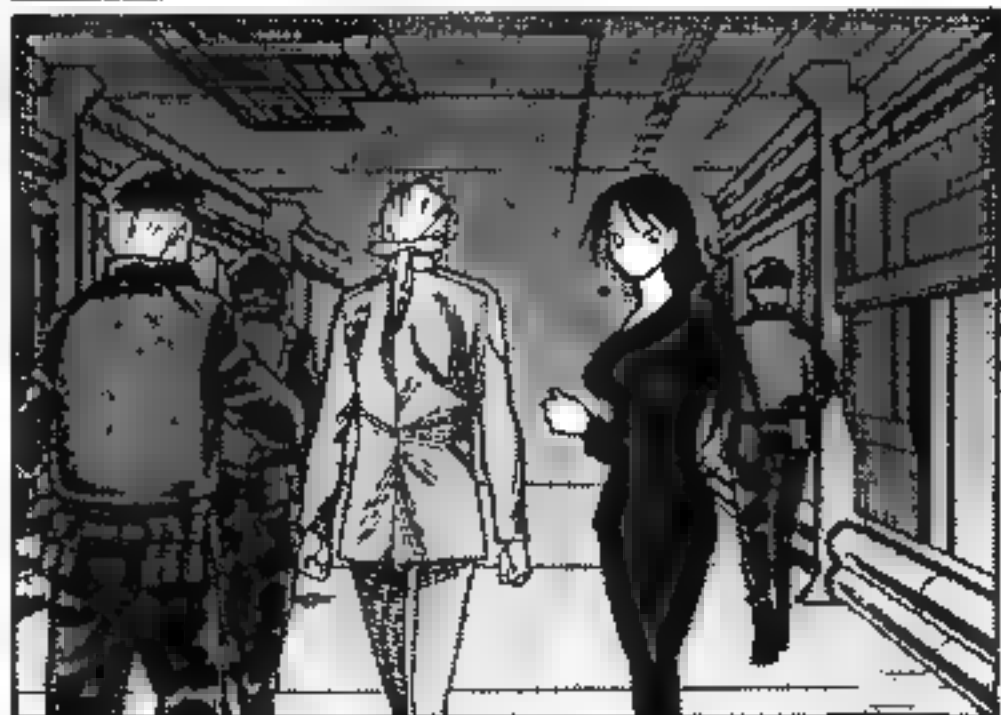
HIME-
SAMA
...



DID YOU NOT HEAR ME? GO!



HIME-SAMA ...



DO IT!

I DO NOT KNOW WHY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD CHOOSE TO TURN A WILLFULLY BLIND EYE TO THE INVASION OF MY BLIND, BUT NOW WE MUST SHOW THEM EXACTLY WHAT SUCH SHORTSIGHTED FOOLISHNESS WILL LEAD THEM TO!



EH ...?



YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BLAME YOURSELF SO MUCH, Y'KNOW.



HIME-SAN.



I KNOW
IT HAD
TO BE A
ROUGH
DECISION
TO MAKE.

IT REALLY
HURTS ME
THAT I
WASN'T FAST
ENOUGH TO
SAVE HER
LIFE,
AND SAVE
YOU FROM
MAKING THAT
CHOICE.
TRUST ME,
IT DOES...



AND
WHAT...
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER.

ABOUT
NANAMI-
SAN.



OH
...

RIGHT.



.....



BUT STILL,
WHAT
HAPPENED
IS NOT
YOUR
FAULT.

JUST
REMEM-
BER
THAT.



BUT
NEVER
MIND
ABOUT
ME...

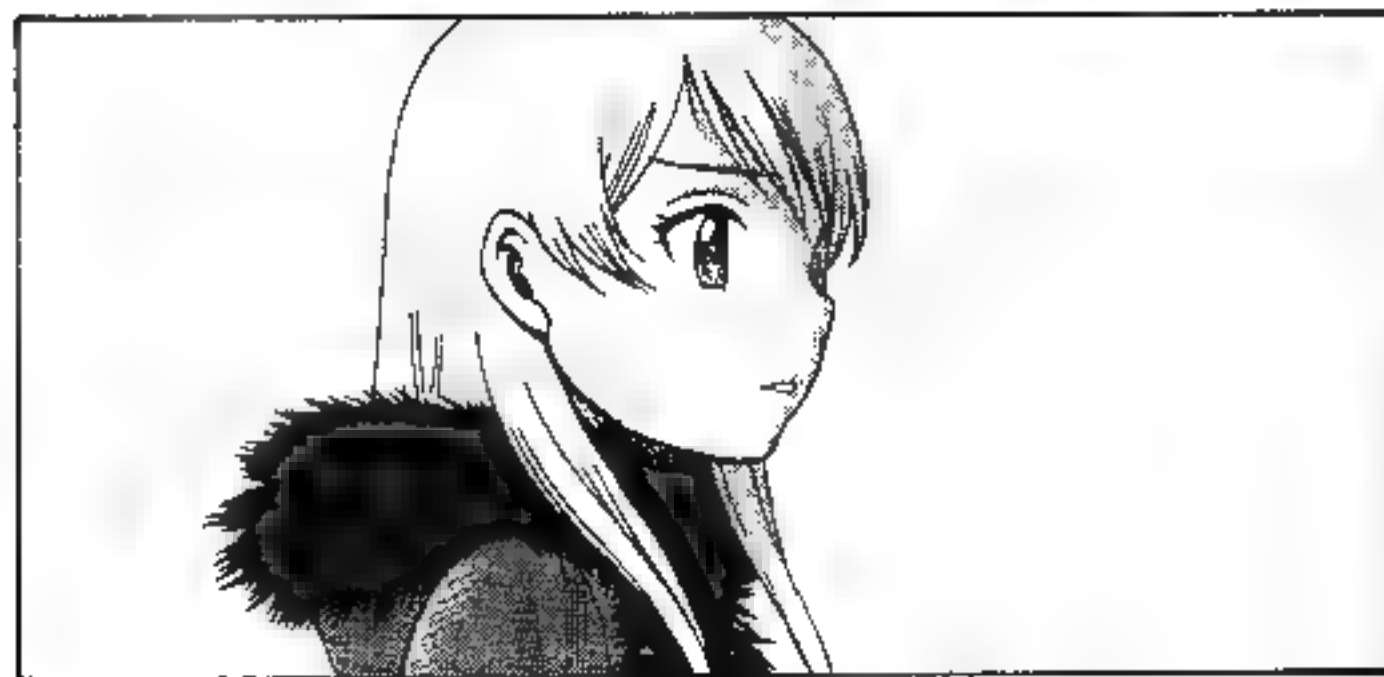
HUH
...?

WHY
DON'T YOU...
ER... YES!
THAT'S RIGHT!
YUKI.
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT HOW
SHE IS DOING.
GO CHECK
ON HER,
WOULD YOU?



YOU
ARE
VERY
KIND.

AKIRA.



I'LL BE
BACK
IN A
MINUTE
!!

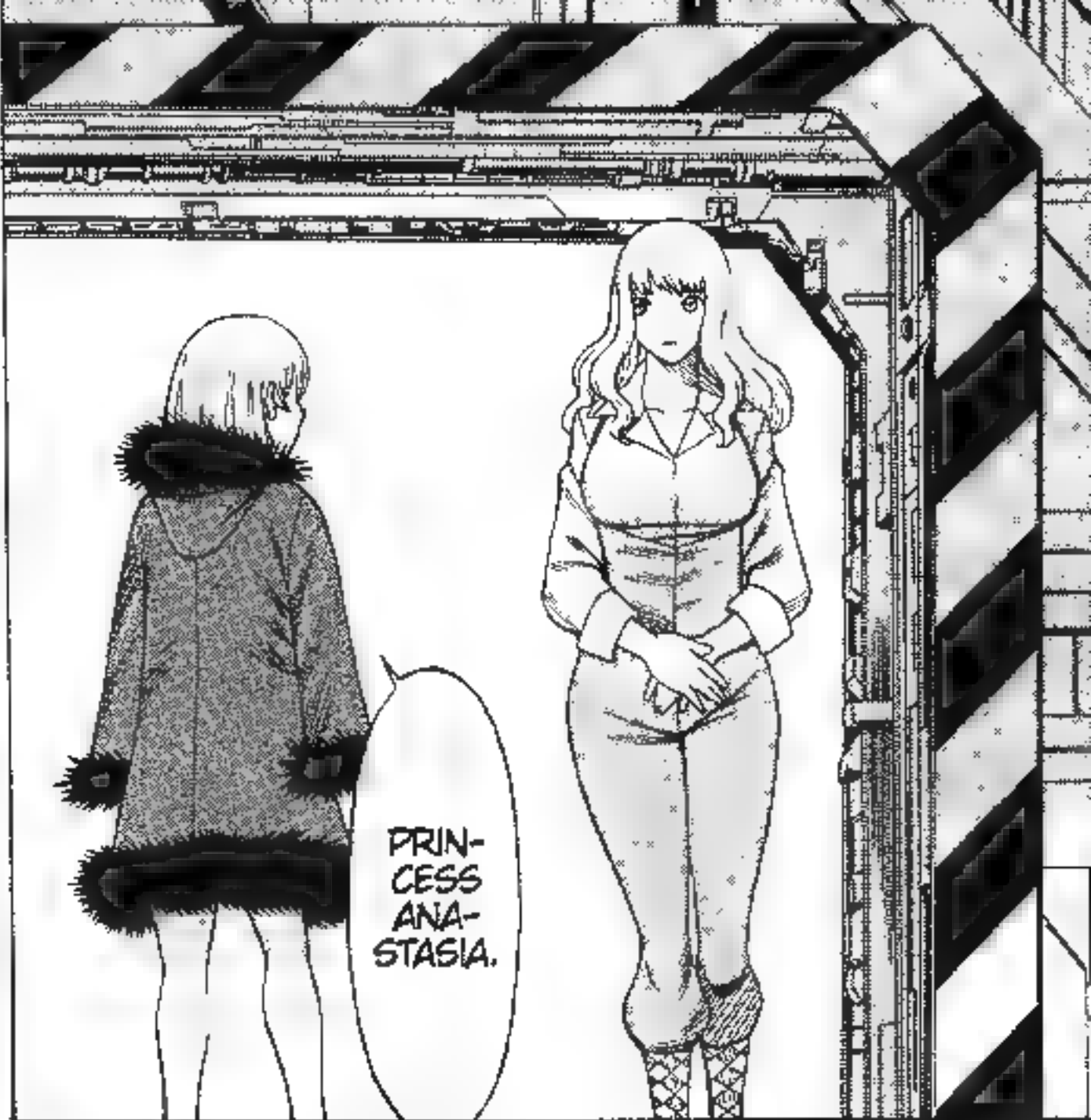
ALL
RIGHT!

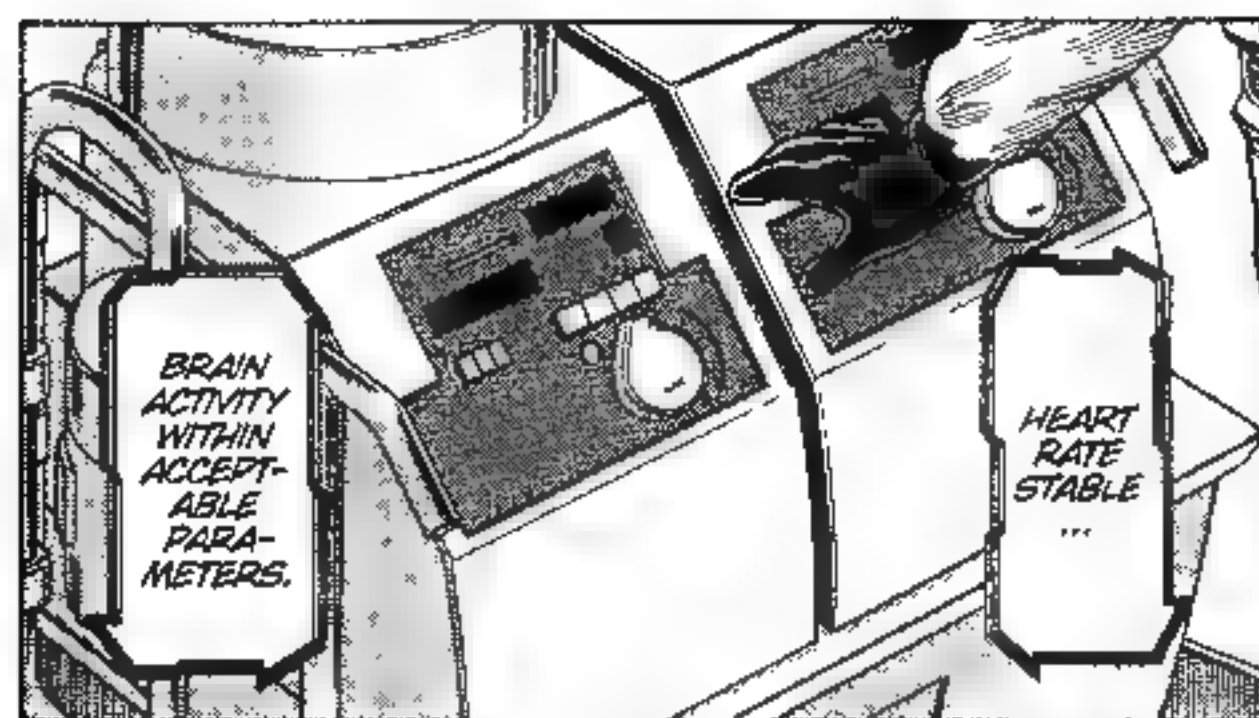


YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY.

NOT
BAD,
MINA-
HIME.
NOT
BAD,
AT ALL.

WELL,
WELL...
AREN'T
YOU
THE CUTE
LITTLE
WOLF-
BOY?







WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
ARMY?
IF YOU'RE
INJURED,
YOU
SHOULD.

HEY,
YOU
THERE.

WHAT
THE
--?

PSHHHH

SPLX

G S

V G S

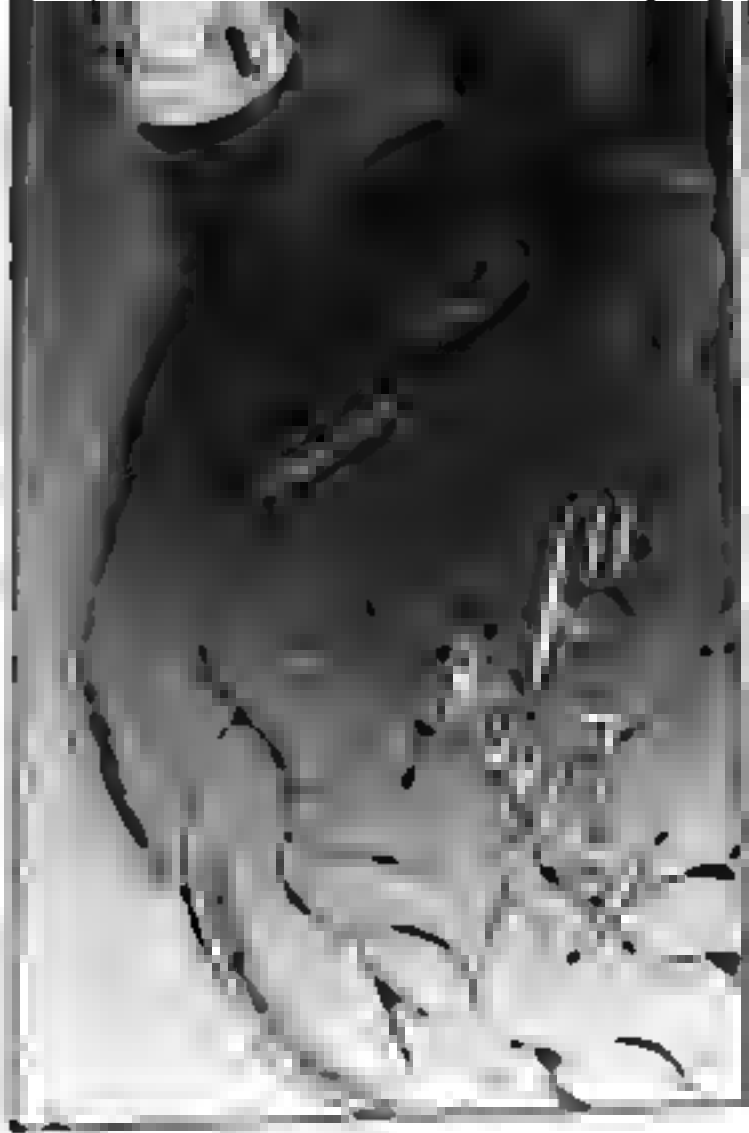


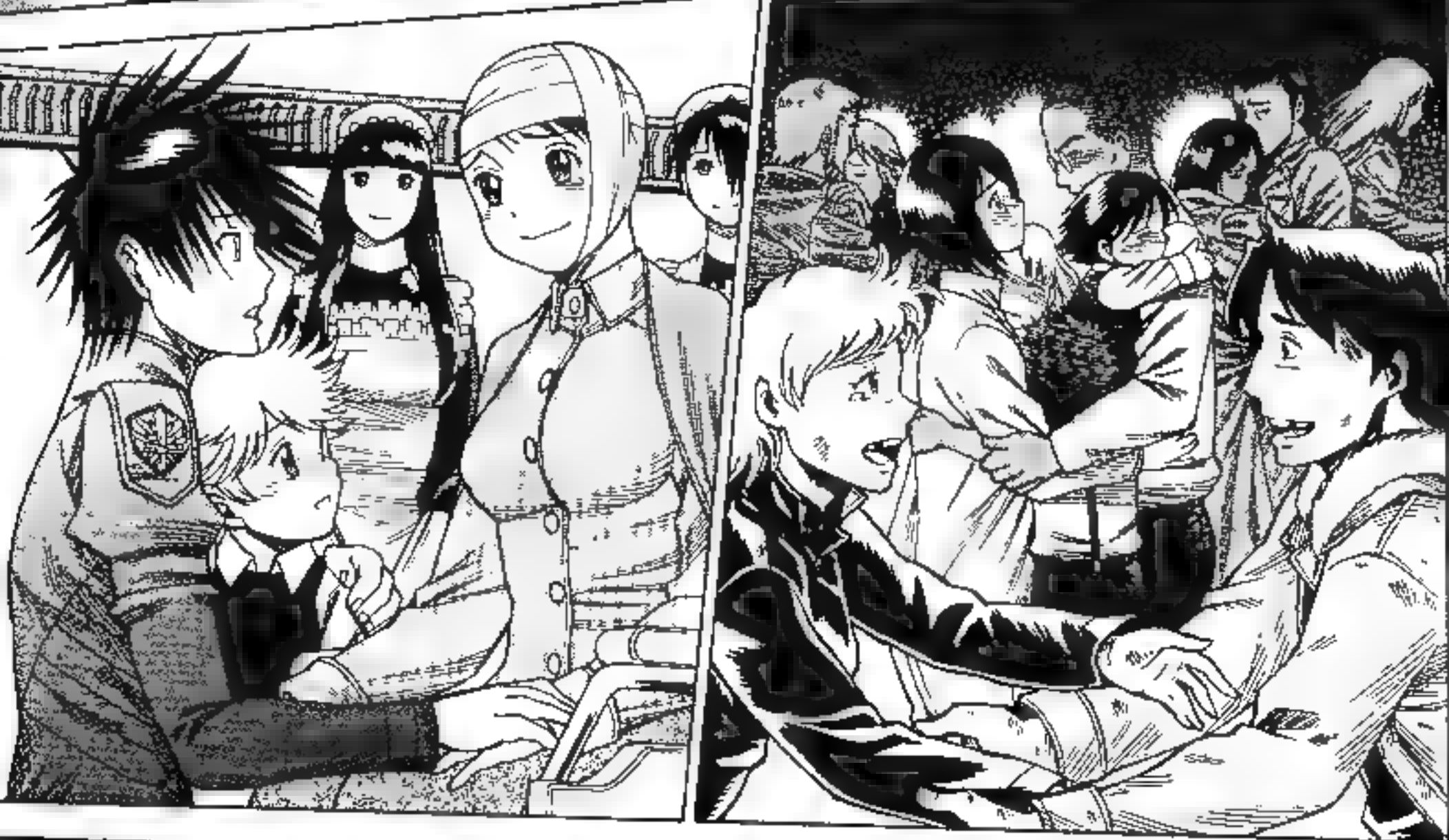
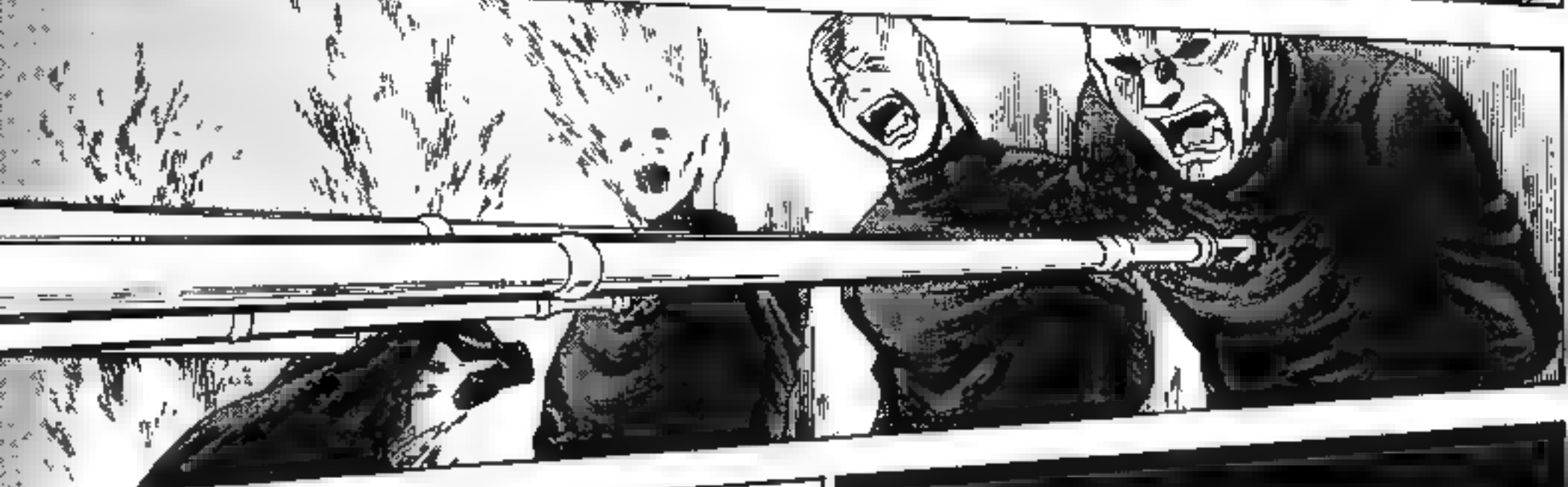
MY
LORD
...

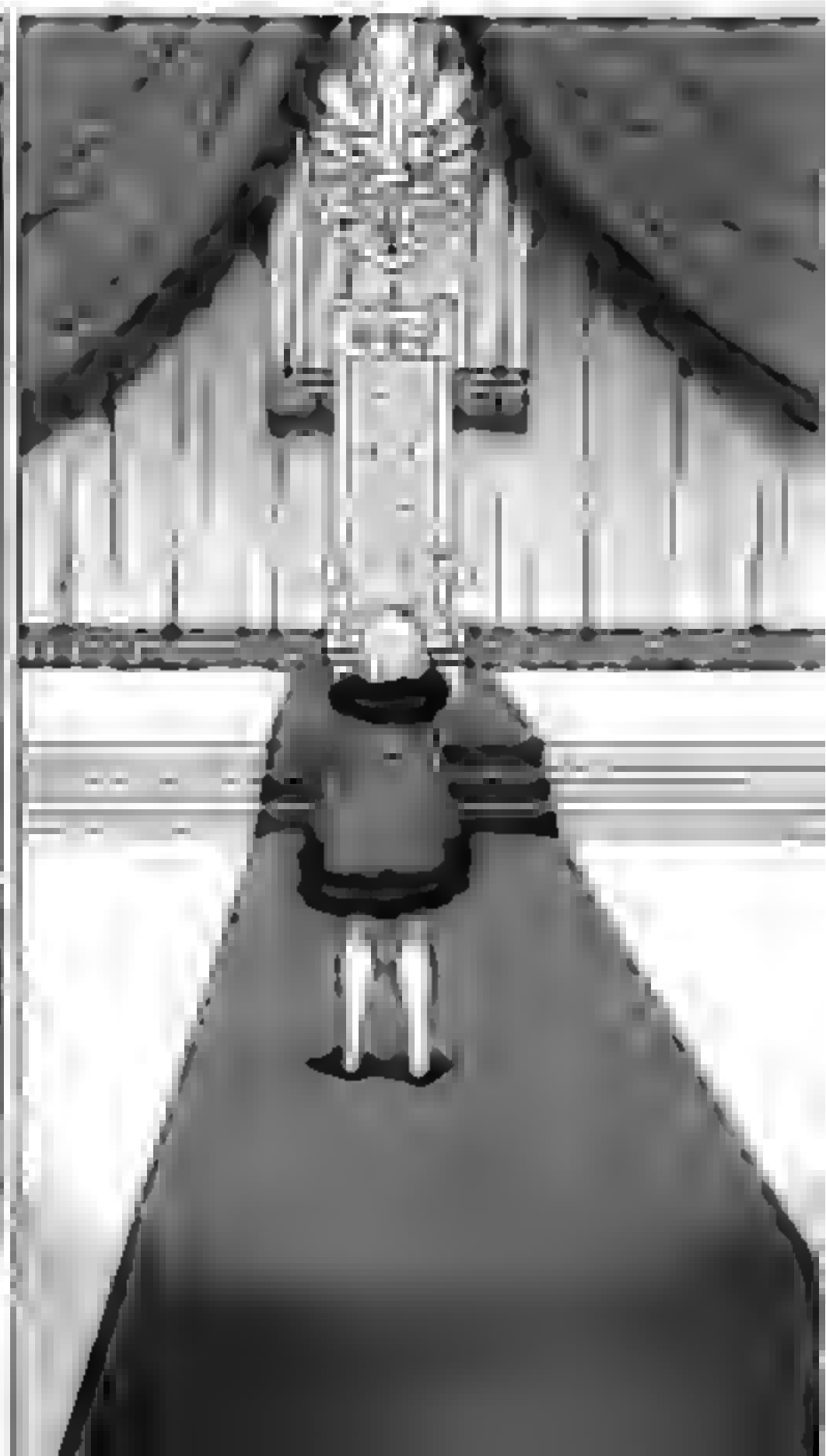
MY
LORD
IVAN-
OVC
....!

G S

SPLX







KREAK



NOW...

AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
!!

HA
HA
HA...

AHA
HA
HA
HA!

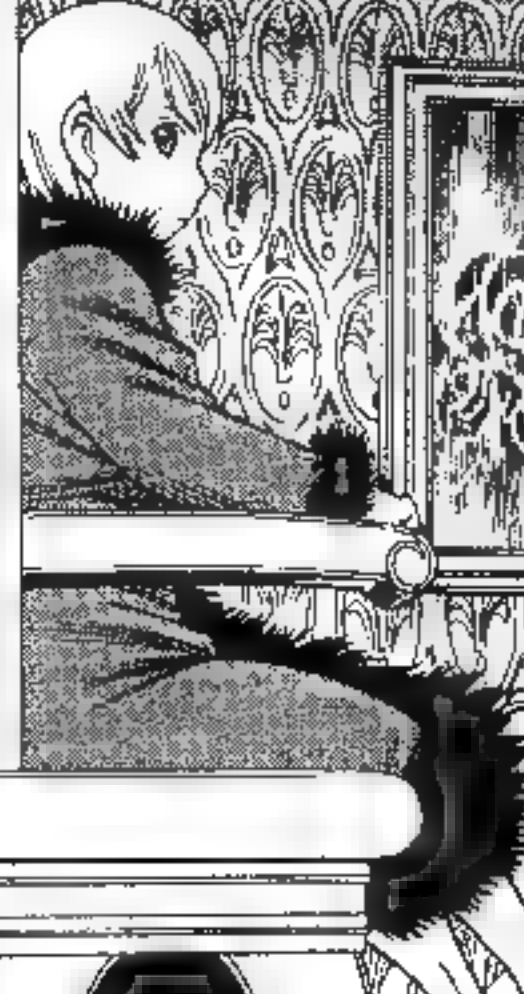
WHERE,
OH
WHERE,
SHALL I
BEGIN?

AH,
WELL.
WHAT I
TRULY
WANTED
WASN'T
THIS
BIT OF
UPHOL-
STERY.

IT WAS
MINA'S
POWER
AND
INFLUENCE.

AND IT'S
ONLY A
SIMPLE,
COMMON
CHAIR.

ALL
THE TIME
AND
EFFORT
I PUT
INTO
GETTING
THIS...







IVANOVICH!!

GRK

!

What's this?

I MUST
ADMIT
THIS IS
ONE VERY
CREATIVE
USE
FOR IT.

What?

What's this?







YOU
ARE
COR-
RECT.

MY,
MY...

YOU...
YOU
ARE
NOT
HER!

I AM
NOT
MINA,
YET.

AND SO
THE FIRST
ONE TO
DISCOVER
ME IS
NOT A
"FRIEND,"
BUT AN
"ENEMY." HOW
WONDER-
FULLY
IRONIC.

WHO
ARE
YOU?!



THOUGH,
MAYBE
THAT IS
NOT
QUITE...
ACCU-
RATE.

AFTER ALL,
IN THE
LONG LINE
OF TRUE-
BLOODS,
IT WAS NOT
ENTIRELY
UNHEARD
OF FOR
TWINS TO
BE BORN.

YOU
COULD
PERHAPS
CALL US
SISTERS,
OF A
SORT...



HAR-
LOT...!

I DID
HEAR THAT
ONE OF THE
THREE GREAT
CLANS IS
WORKING ON
PERFECTING
THAT
TECHNOLOGY
EVEN NOW,
YOU
KNOW...

PERHAPS
THEN,
YOU
COULD
CALL
ME A
CLONE.

IT'S
NOT
IMPOS-
SIBLE.



THEY
WENT
TO
THE
END
OF
THE
WORLD
AND
DIED

THEY
WENT
TO
THE
END
OF
THE
WORLD
AND
DIED

IT IS
OUT OF
THAT
DARKNESS
THAT I
CAME.

WELL?
DOES
THAT SHED
SOME
LIGHT
ON THE
SUBJECT
FOR
YOU...?



THEY
WENT
TO
THE
END
OF
THE
WORLD
AND
DIED

THEY
WENT
TO
THE
END
OF
THE
WORLD
AND
DIED

THEY
WENT
TO
THE
END
OF
THE
WORLD
AND
DIED

THEY
WENT
TO
THE
END
OF
THE
WORLD
AND
DIED



OH,
THAT
ENDED
CENTU-
RIES
AGO,
IVAN-
OVC.



IT CAME
CRASHING
DOWN THE
VERY DAY
MINA WAS
BORN...



BUT
DO NOT
BE SO
DE-DUN-
DENT

AFTER ALL,
YOU WILL
NOT BE
AROUND TO
WITNESS
THE LAST
DEATH
THROES
OF YOUR
BELOVED
RACE.



DO YOU
MEAN TO
BRING AN
END
TO THE
LONG AND
GLORIOUS
HISTORY
OF THE
TRUE-
BLOODED
VAMPIRES
?!

ROZENMANN



ROZEN-
MANN,
YOU
TREACH-
EROUS
SON
OF A
WHORE
!!





VERA!
WOLFMAN!
YOU
WILL BE
FLYING
TO RUSSIA
AS SOON
AS A
PLANE
CAN BE
PREPARED.

LISTEN
EVERY-
ONE
NOW
OUR
TRUE
WARRI-
ORS BEGIN!



YOU ARE TO
EXPUL WHATEVER
REMAINS OF
IVANOV'S
FLEETS
AND ANNEAL HIS
WOUNDS IN
THE NAME OF
THE ROYAL
FAMILY



SINK
IT.

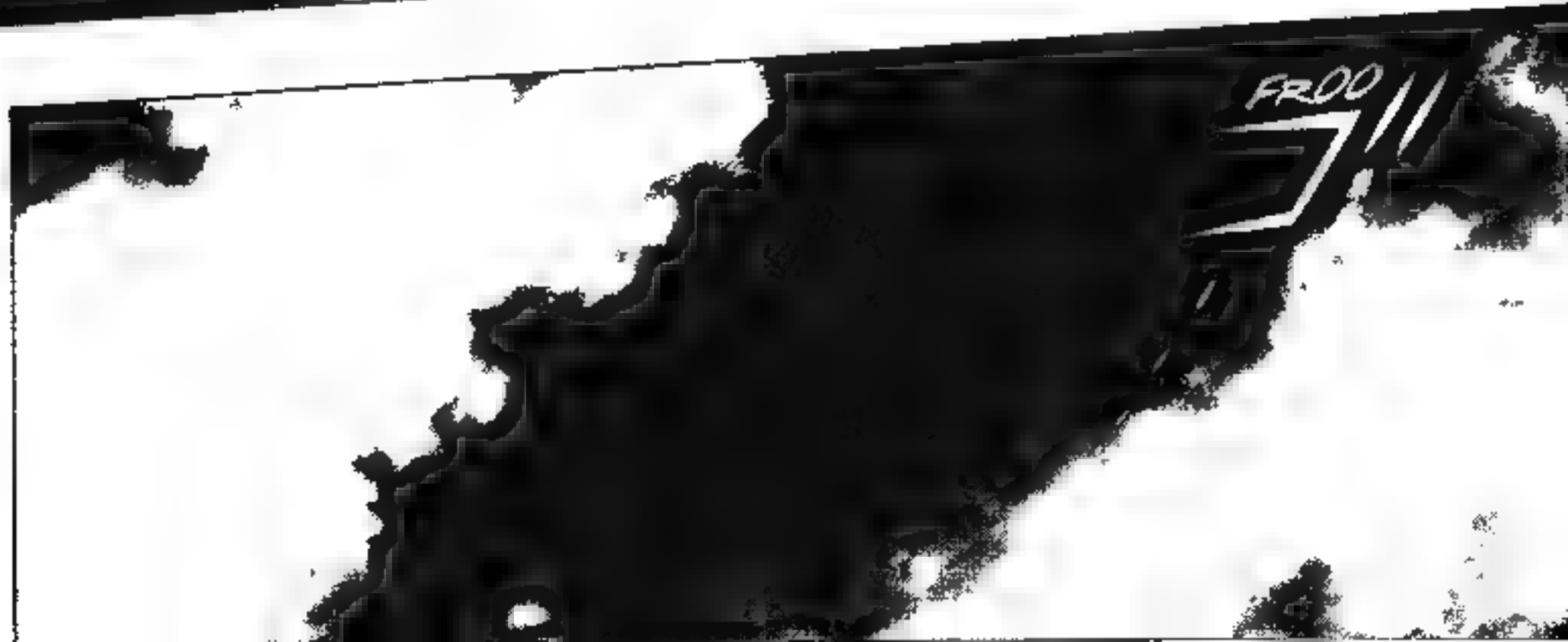


WOLF
MAN, THE
BUT WAS
UNABLE
TO
REACH



IT WILL
BE A
GREAT
UNDER-
TAKING,
BUT I
TRUST
YOU TO
HANDLE
IT
WELL.







YOUR
KINGDOM HAS
SUCCESSFULLY
SURVIVED THE
DANGER.

FRR00

IT
SEEMS
THE
BATTLE
HAS
ENDED...



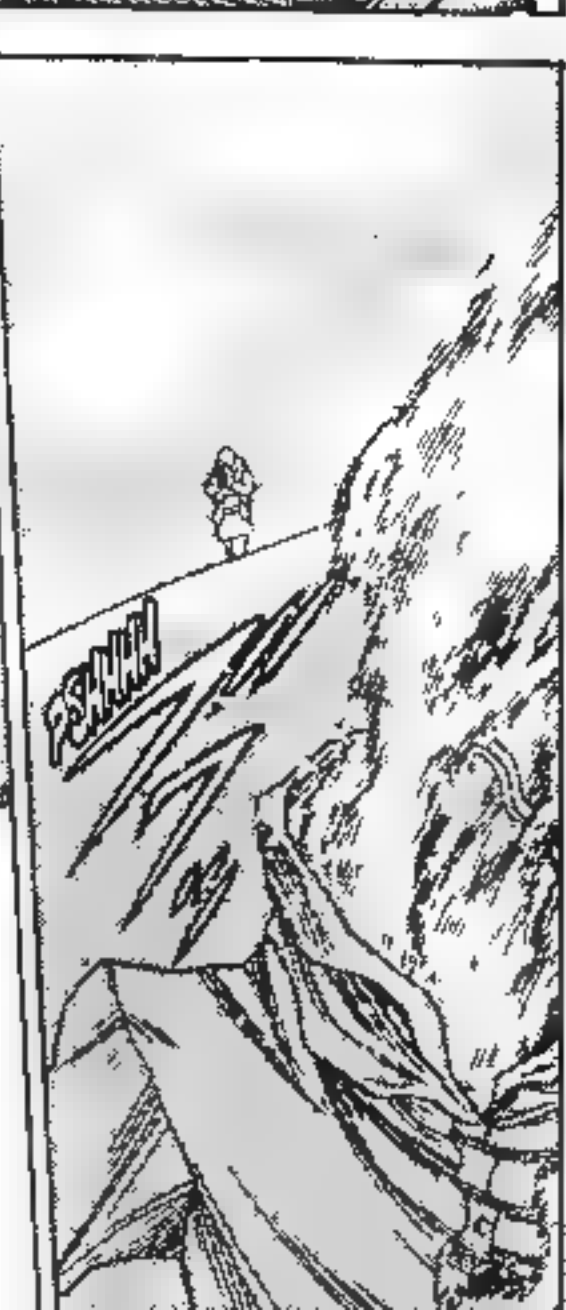
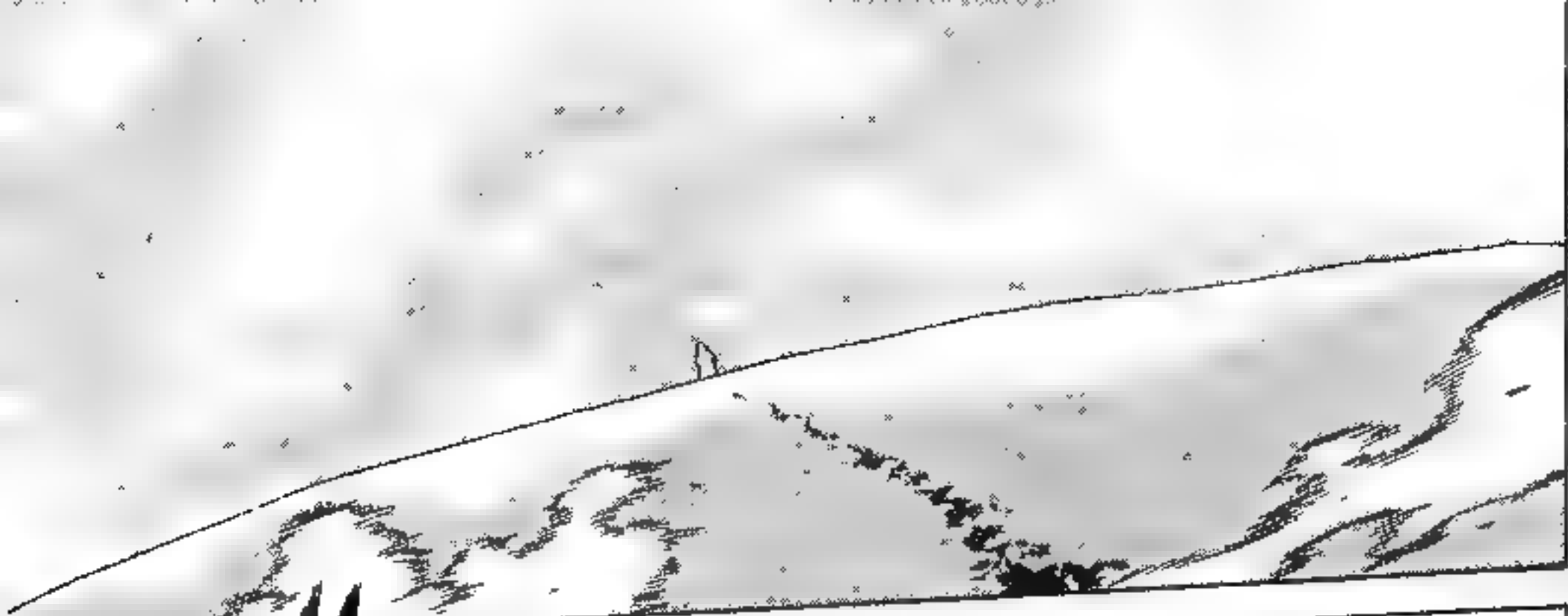
THAT
WOULD
BE HER
KINGDOM
NOW.
IS THAT
NOT
CORRECT
...

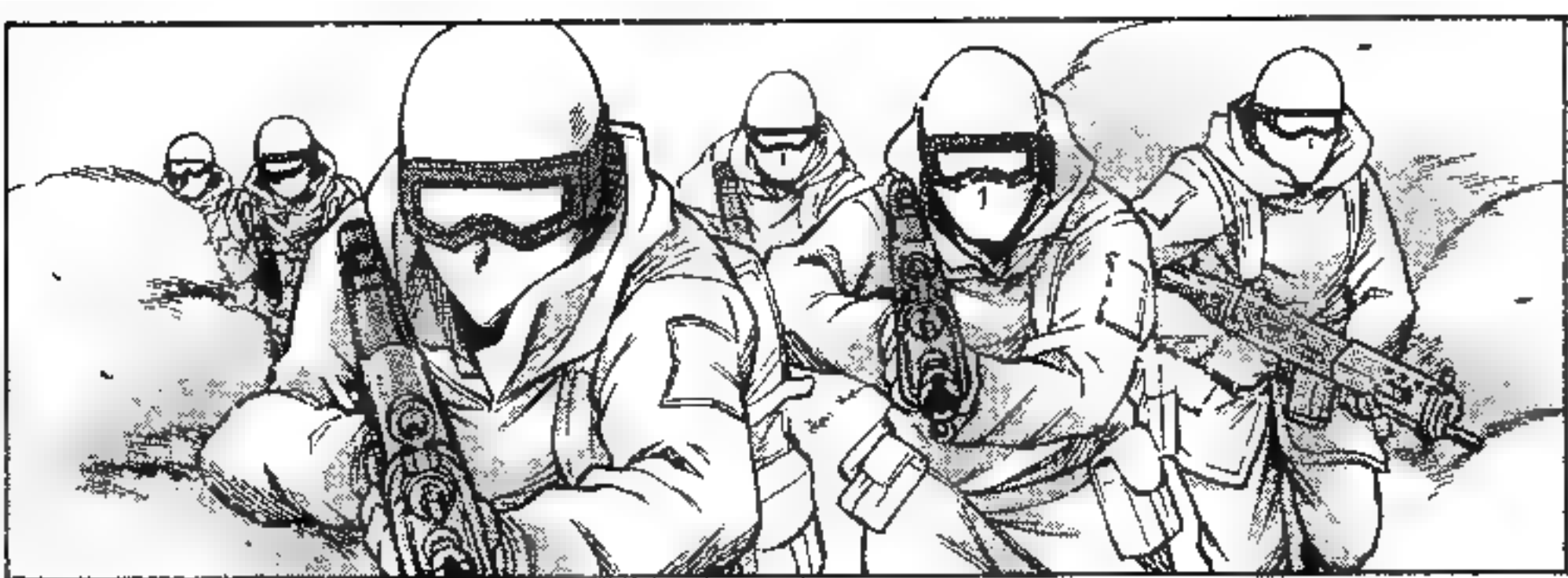
FRR000

OH,
PARDON
ME.
A SLIP
OF THE
TONGUE
...

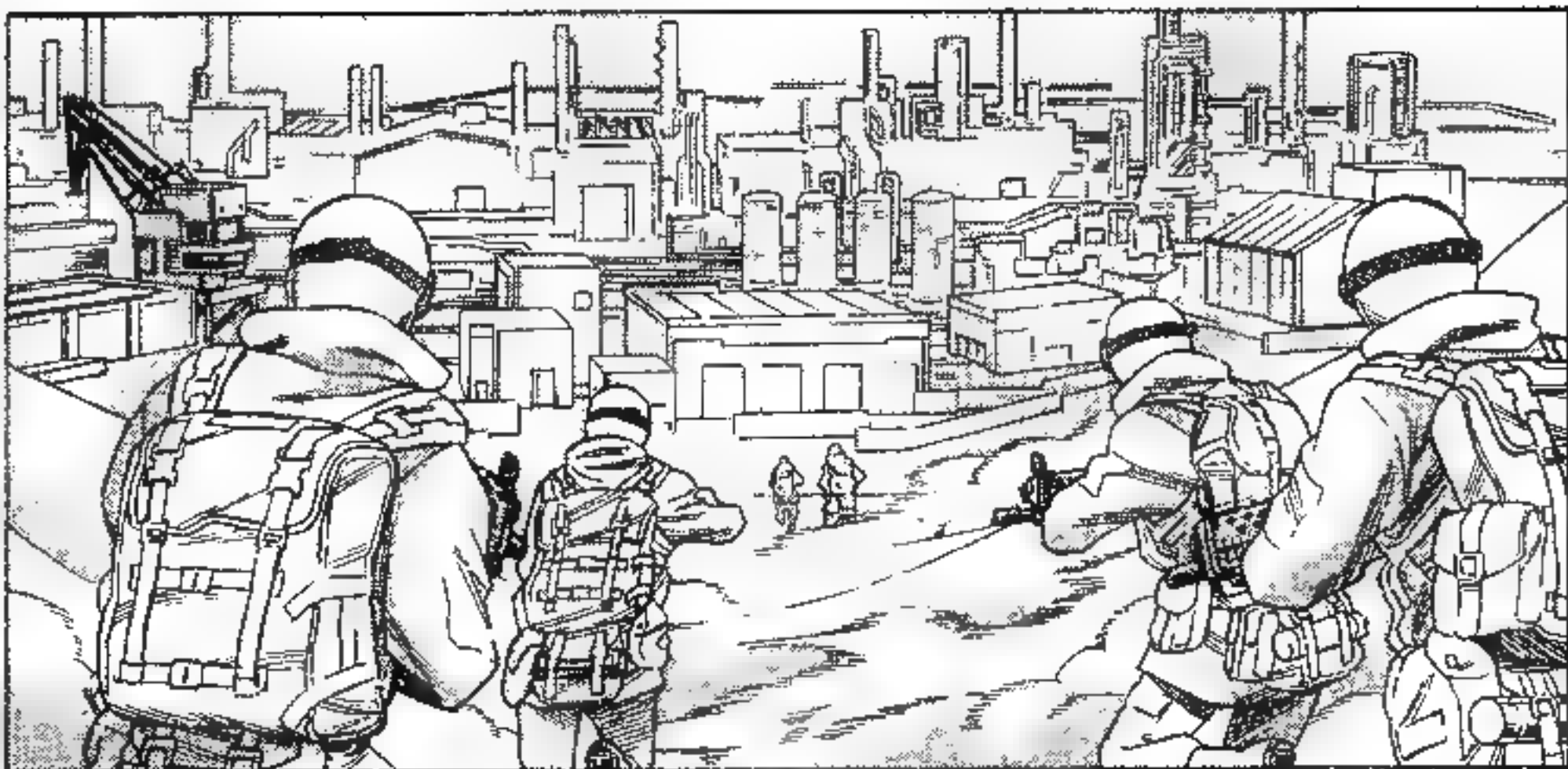
MY
LOVELY
BRIDE?







Chapter 55: Scheming



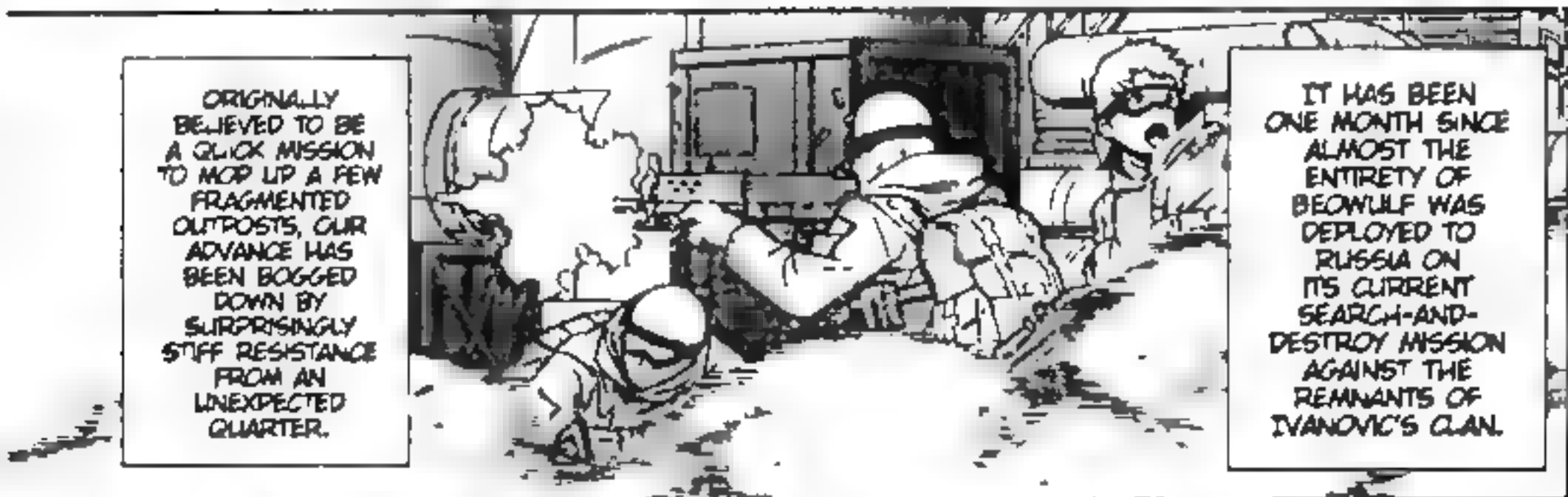


COMMANDER'S
LOG, ENTRY 1892.
RECORDED BY
VERATOS
CARMENCTA
LAGASH.



CONTINUE
TO SNIFF
THEM
OUT AS
YOU FIND
THEM.

DO NOT
LET EVEN
ONE
SOLDIER
ESCAPE
ALIVE.

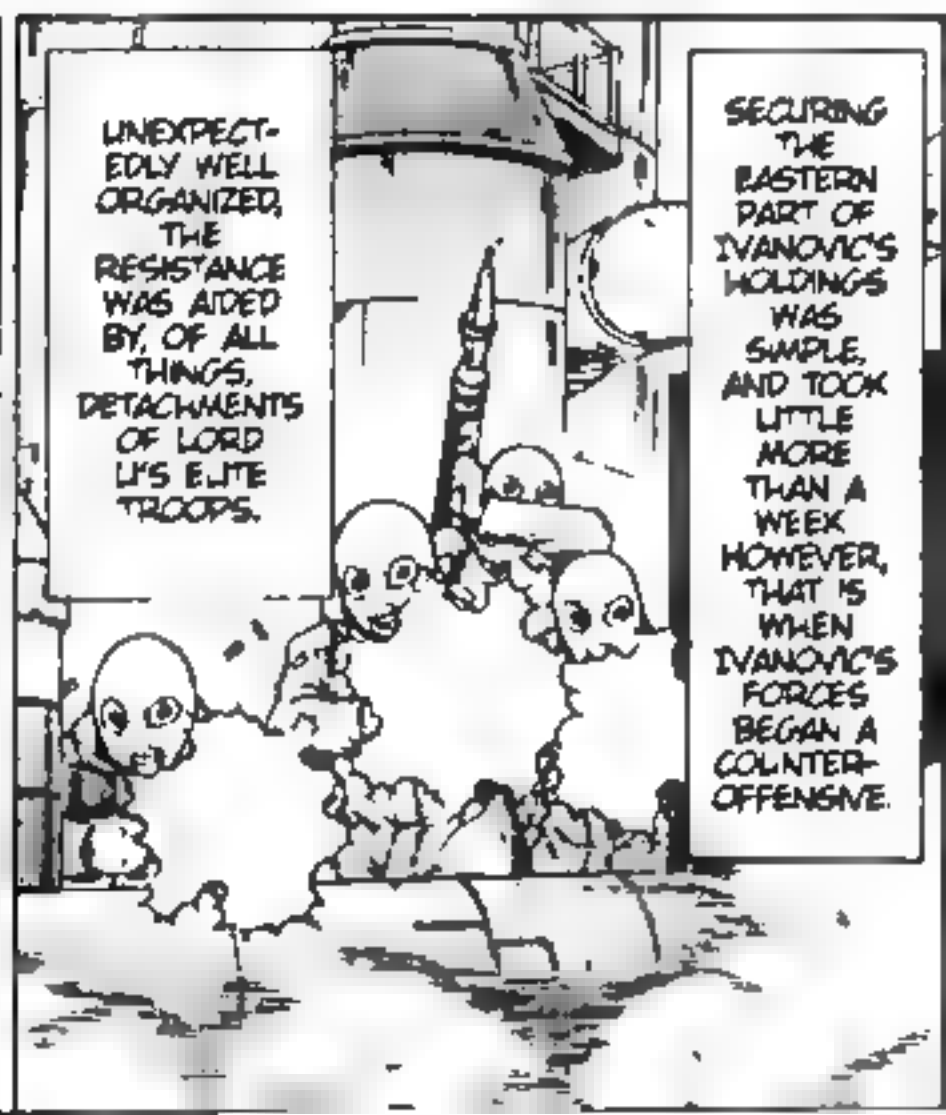


ORIGINALLY
BELIEVED TO BE
A QUICK MISSION
TO MOP UP A FEW
FRAGMENTED
OUTPOSTS, OUR
ADVANCE HAS
BEEN BOGGED
DOWN BY
SURPRISINGLY
STIFF RESISTANCE
FROM AN
UNEXPECTED
QUARTER.

IT HAS BEEN
ONE MONTH SINCE
ALMOST THE
ENTIRETY OF
BEOWULF WAS
DEPLOYED TO
RUSSIA ON
ITS CURRENT
SEARCH-AND-
DESTROY MISSION
AGAINST THE
REMANANTS OF
IVANOVIC'S CLAN.



IT HAD BEEN
ASSUMED BY ALL
THAT LORD W, HAVING
TO DEAL WITH THE
PIED PIPER EPIDEMIC
IN HIS OWN LANDS,
WOULD STAND
NEUTRAL IN
THIS CONFLICT
HIS INVOLVEMENT
CAME AS A COMPLETE
SURPRISE AND
CAUGHT US,
ADMITTEDLY, ENTIRELY
UNPREPARED.



UNEXPECT-
EDLY WELL
ORGANIZED,
THE
RESISTANCE
WAS AIDED
BY, OF ALL
THINGS,
DETACHMENTS
OF LORD
L'S ELITE
TROOPS.

SECURING
THE
EASTERN
PART OF
IVANOVIC'S
HOLDINGS
WAS
SIMPLE,
AND TOOK
LITTLE
MORE
THAN A
WEEK
HOWEVER,
THAT IS
WHEN
IVANOVIC'S
FORCES
BEGAN A
COUNTER-
OFFENSIVE.

NOT ONLY THAT,
BUT UPON THE
CONCLUSION OF
JANG'S
NOW-FREE
ALLEGIANCE TO US,
THE GENERAL HAS
OBTAINED GREATER
REINFORCEMENTS
FROM THAT
QUARTANT AND
IS EVEN NOW
ENTRENCHING FOR
A LONG WAR OF
ATTRITION.

THE RESISTANCE
IS BEING LED BY
GENERAL NAGHUN,
ONE OF JANG'S
FINEST SOLDIERS AND
THE HIGHEST RANKING
OF HIS SURVIVING
REMAINS. HE
QUICKLY DECLARED
THIS TO BE A WAR TO
AVENGE THE LATEST
DEATH OF THEIR LORD,
THUS REHEATING THE
ENEMY'S MACHAE.

BUT
THINKING
ON IT,
THIS IS THE
LONGEST I
HAVE BEEN
SEPARATED
FROM HER
MAJESTY
SINCE
NO.

NO
LONGER
THAN
HUNDRED
YEARS
AT LEAST
BACK
WHEN THAT
HAPPENED.

WHEN
REFLECTED
ON THE
DEVELOP-
MENTS,
HIME-SAMA'S
RESPONSE
WAS SWIFT
AND TO THE
POINT.

A VERY BA-
FFLING HAS
TAKEN
PLACE IN
MY HEART,
AND THE
BUT, BE-
CAUSE

IF THAT
IS HER
MAJESTY'S
WISH
ALL WE
CAN DO IS
OBEY...

DO NOT
HALT THE
ADVANCE.

IT
TAKES
ME
THAT
I
CAN
ONLY
WISH
THEY
WERE
NOT
GONE
AT
THAT
TIME...





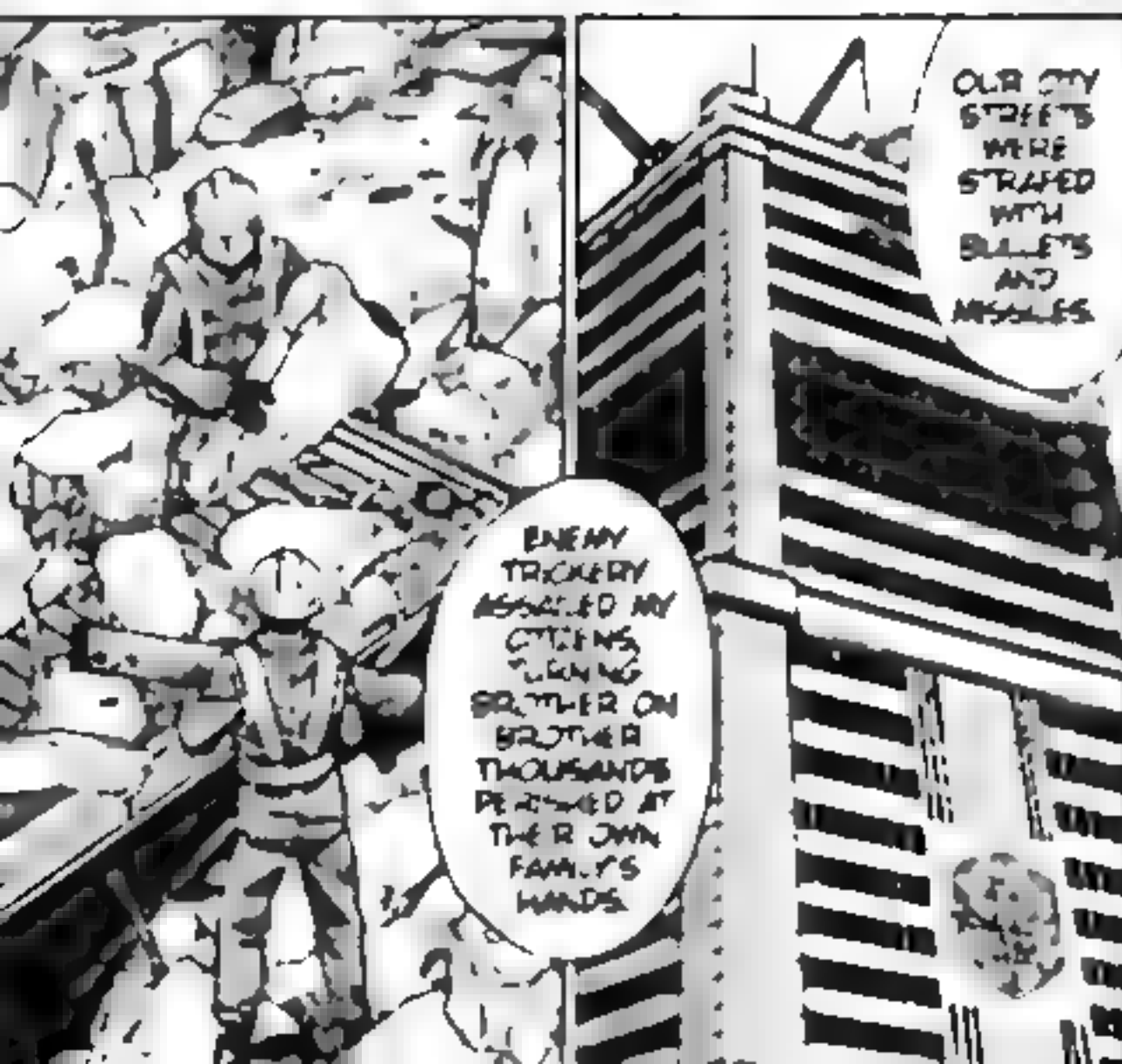
YOUR
PARENTS
WERE
MALENTY
BUT I AM
AFRAID
THAT THE
JAPANESE
WAVE-ON
MENT

CANNOT
SIMPLY SAYING
WHAT HAPPENED
EXTENSIVE DAMAGE
WAS CAUSED WHEN
MAYBE'S STRUCK
THE MANDAL
THEY STRUCK
CIVILIAN BUILDINGS
I HEARD AND
AND THEN THERE
WAS THE DANGEROUS
FLAMING SPARKING
OF AN UNARMED
VESSEL WITHIN
A HOUSE
MAYBE'S



SEE FOR
YOURSELF
WHAT MY
KINGDOM
SUFFERED

AND
DON'T
SPEAK
TO ME
OF
DAMAGE



ENEMY
TRICKERY
ASSAULTED MY
CITIZENS
TURNING
BROTHER ON
BROTHER
THOUSANDS
PERISHED AT
THEIR OWN
FAMILY'S
HANDS

OUR CITY
STREETS
WERE
STRAPE
WITH
BULLETS
AND
MISSILES

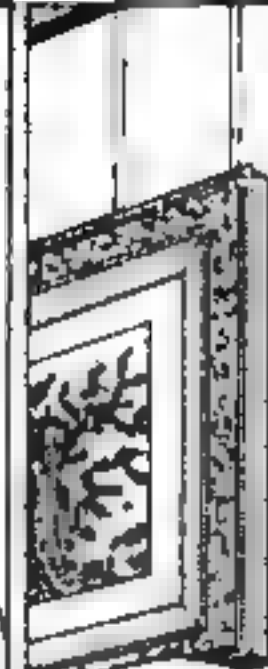


REALLY?
WHAT
STRANGE
THINGS
FOR YOU
TO SAY

AFTER ALL,
HAD THE
JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT
ACTUALLY
AGREED TO THE
PACT OF MUTUAL
PROTECTION THAT
BOTH OF OUR
GOVERNMENTS
ESTABLISHED IN
GOOD FAITH
THEN NONE OF
THESE THINGS
WOULD HAVE
HAPPENED



THE ALLEGATIONS THAT KNOWLEDGE OF IVANOVIC'S INVASION WAS COVERED UP IS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION.



SO IF YOU HAVE COME SEEKING EXCUSES, COUNCILOR, I WOULD LOOK TO YOUR OWN. WE HAVE NO NEED OF ANY.



THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILLFULLY ALLOWED IVANOVIC TO INVADE MY SOVEREIGN LANDS AND WREAK THIS HAVOC. HONESTLY, I AM NOW FORCED TO WONDER WHERE YOUR ALLEGIANCES TRULY LIE.



...

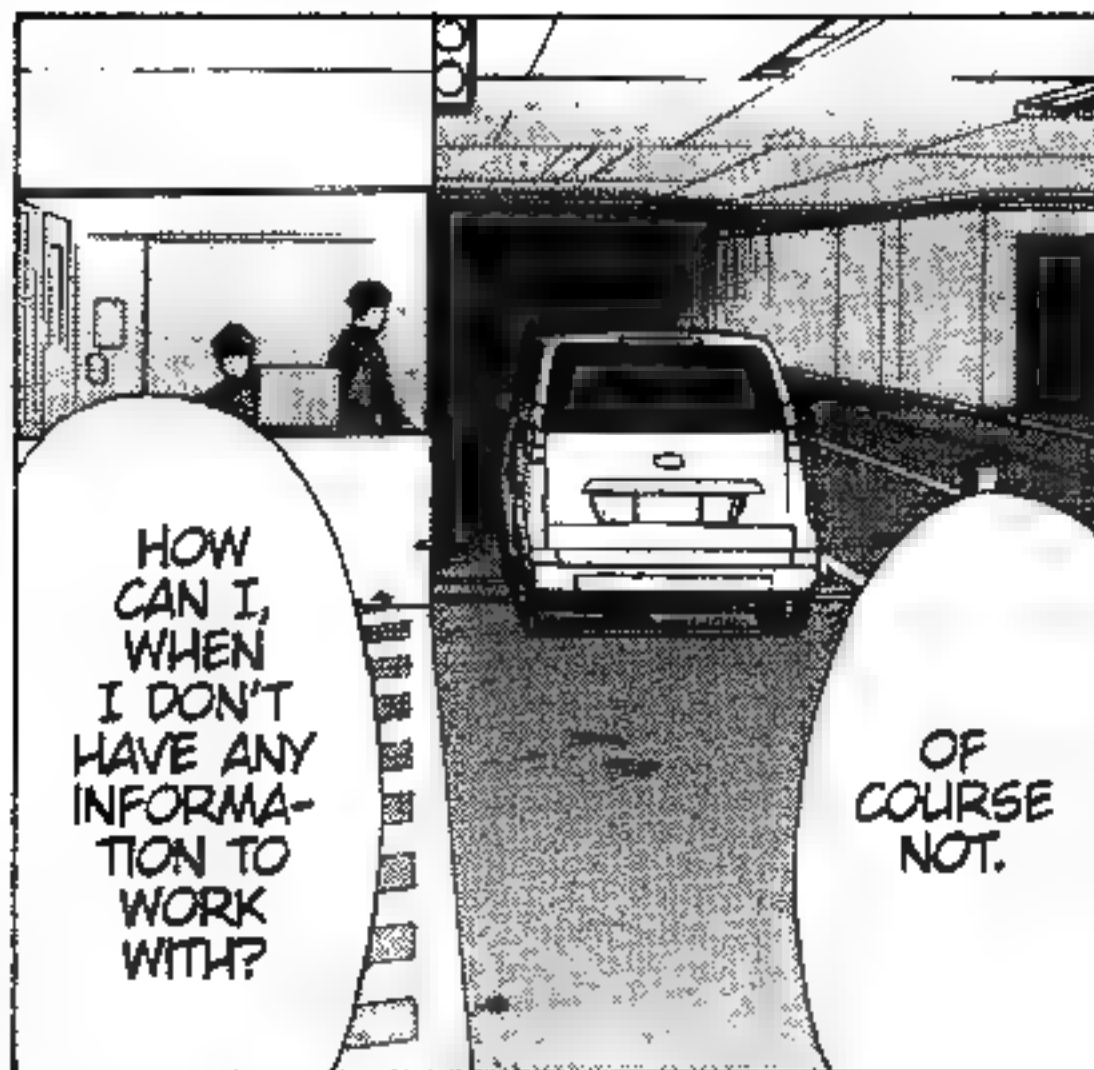


SO, YA DIDN'T GET ANYWHERE TODAY EITHER, HUH...?



YOU MAY LEAVE.

HMPH... I EAGERLY AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THIS "INVESTIGATION." IT IS BOUND TO BE AMUSING. BUT IN ANY CASE, WE ARE DONE FOR TODAY.



OF COURSE NOT.

HOW CAN I, WHEN I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO WORK WITH?

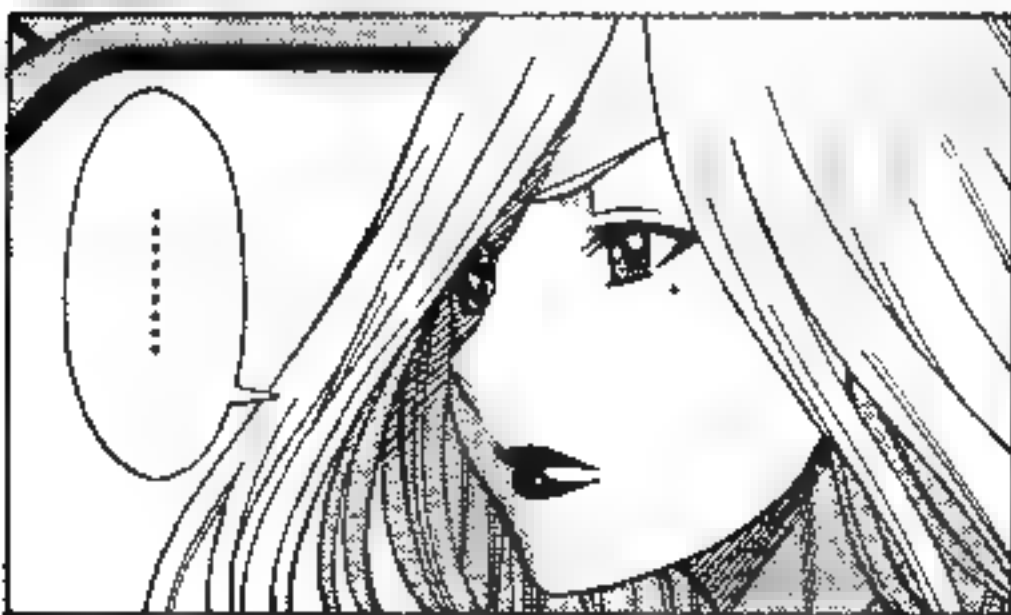


SO WHY NOT JUST GIVE THEM THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH?

"SORRY, MA'AM! THE ENEMY SNUCK UP AND SKUNKED US GOOD, TOO." I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, AFTER ALL...



SENATOR ISURUGI'S OFFICIAL REP, YOU MEAN.



I AM HERE AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT!

I COULD NEVER SAY THAT !!

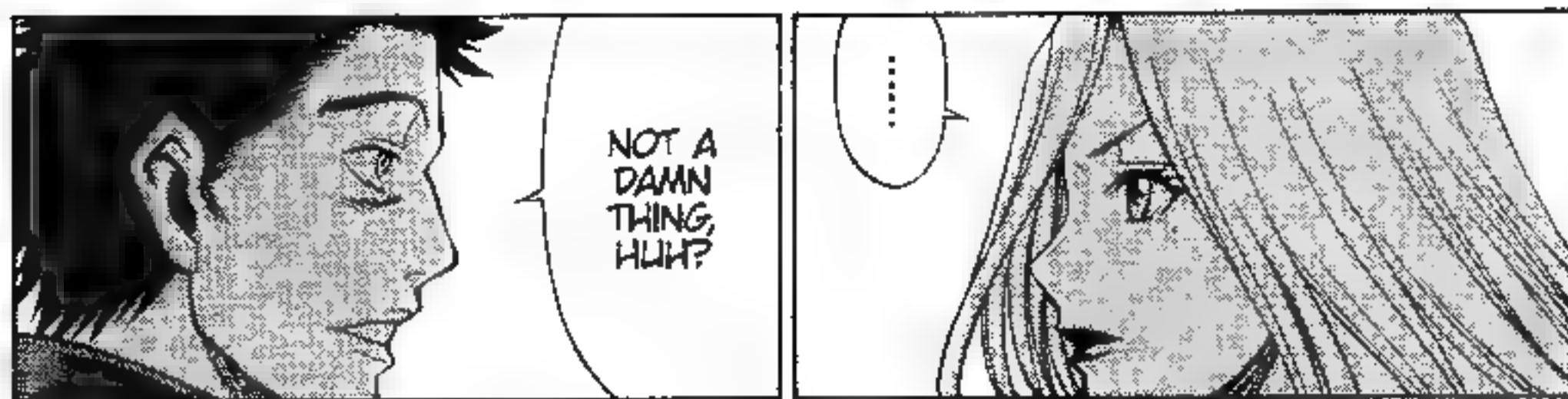
"SKUNK-ED"...?



WHAT'D HE SAY?

YES...

SPEAKIN' OF THE SENATOR, HAVE YOU MET WITH HIM?

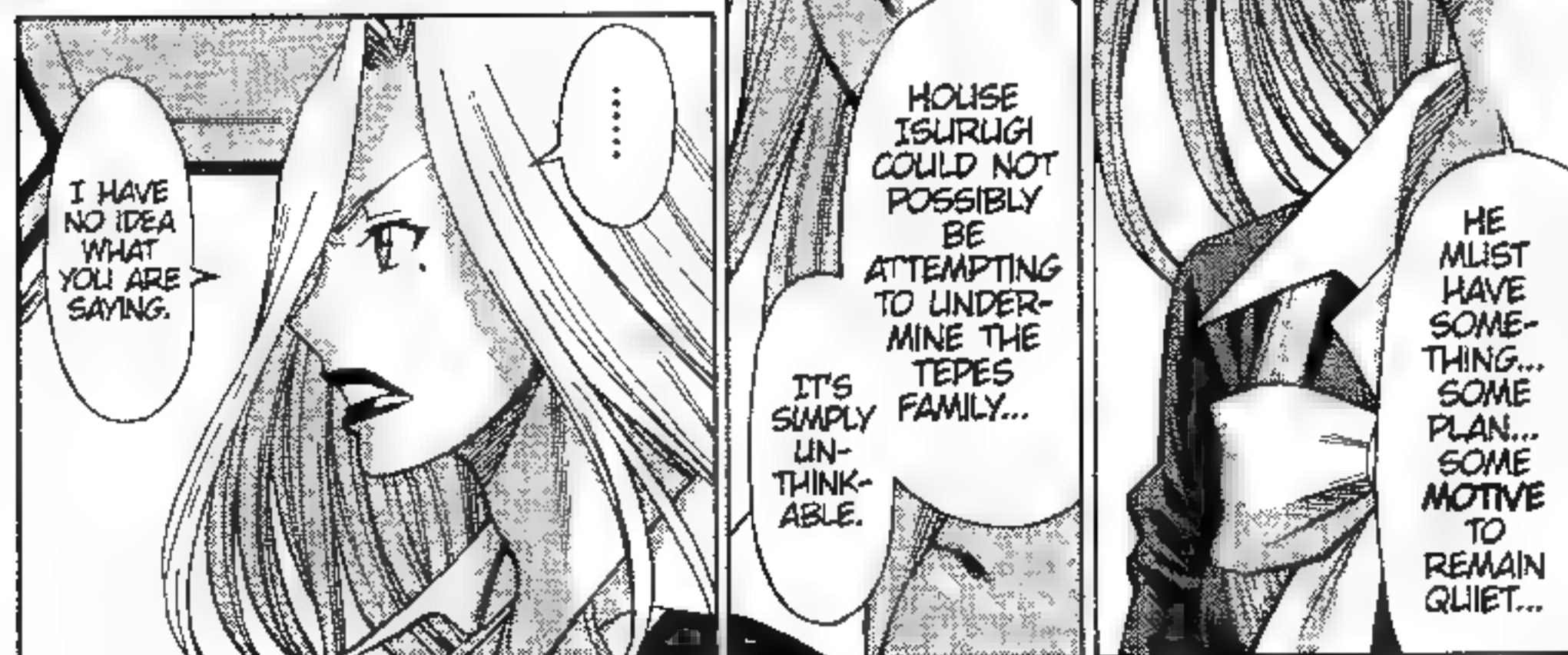


NOT A DAMN THING, HUH?

...



WELL, YOU GUYS ARE THE OFFICIAL ARBITRATORS AN' ALL.



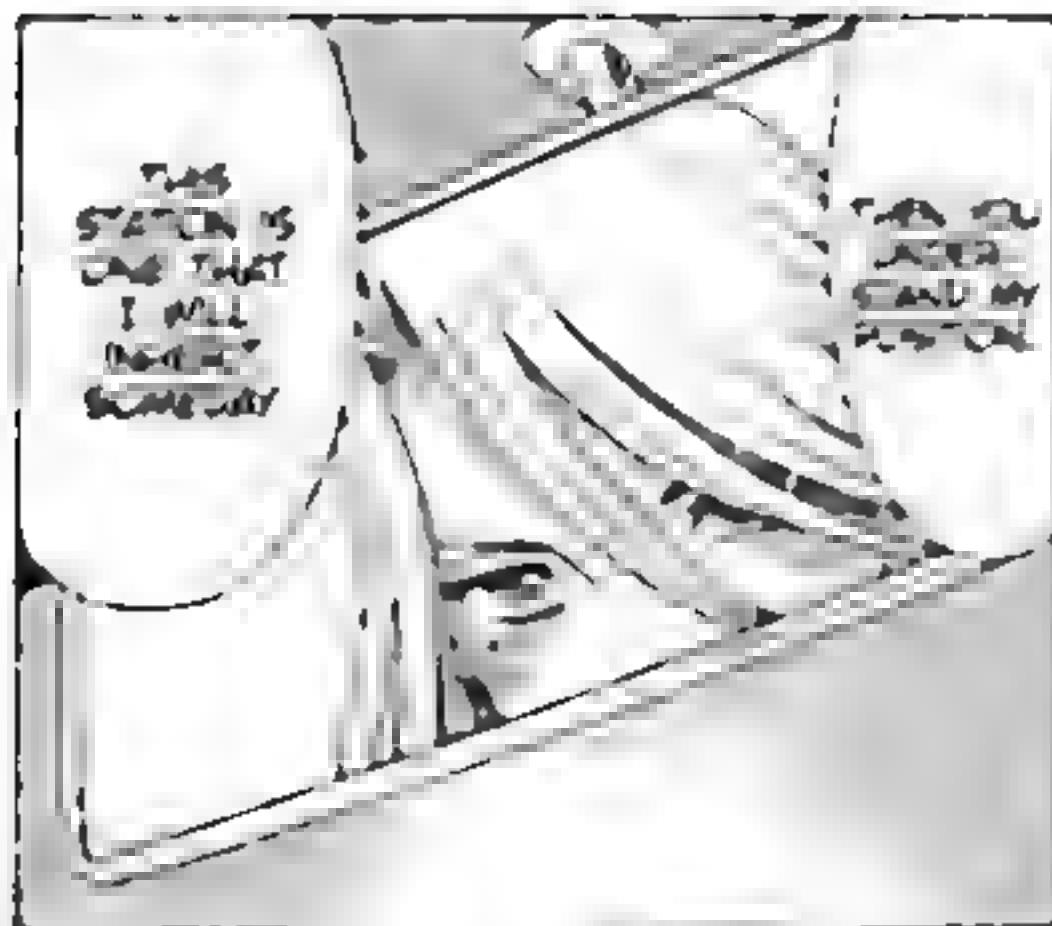
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE SAYING.

...

IT'S SIMPLY UN-THINK-ABLE.

HOUSE ISURUGI COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE THE TEPE'S FAMILY...

HE MUST HAVE SOMETHING... SOME PLAN... SOME MOTIVE TO REMAIN QUIET...



THIS
STATION IS
ONE THAT
I WILL
NOT
FORGET

THE
PLACE
WHERE
MY
FATHER



THE
PLACE
WHERE
MY
FATHER
DIED

ONCE
I WAS
HERE
I WANTED
FOR
MY
FATHER



I CANNOT
AFFORD TO
FAIL TO
MEET HIS
EXPECTA-
TIONS

IT IS TO
TRAIN ME
FOR THE
DUTY THAT
AWAITS ME
THE DAY I
CURRENTLY
HOLD



NO
MATTER
WHAT

I MUST
MEET
THEM
NO
MATTER
WHAT



WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
BY—?

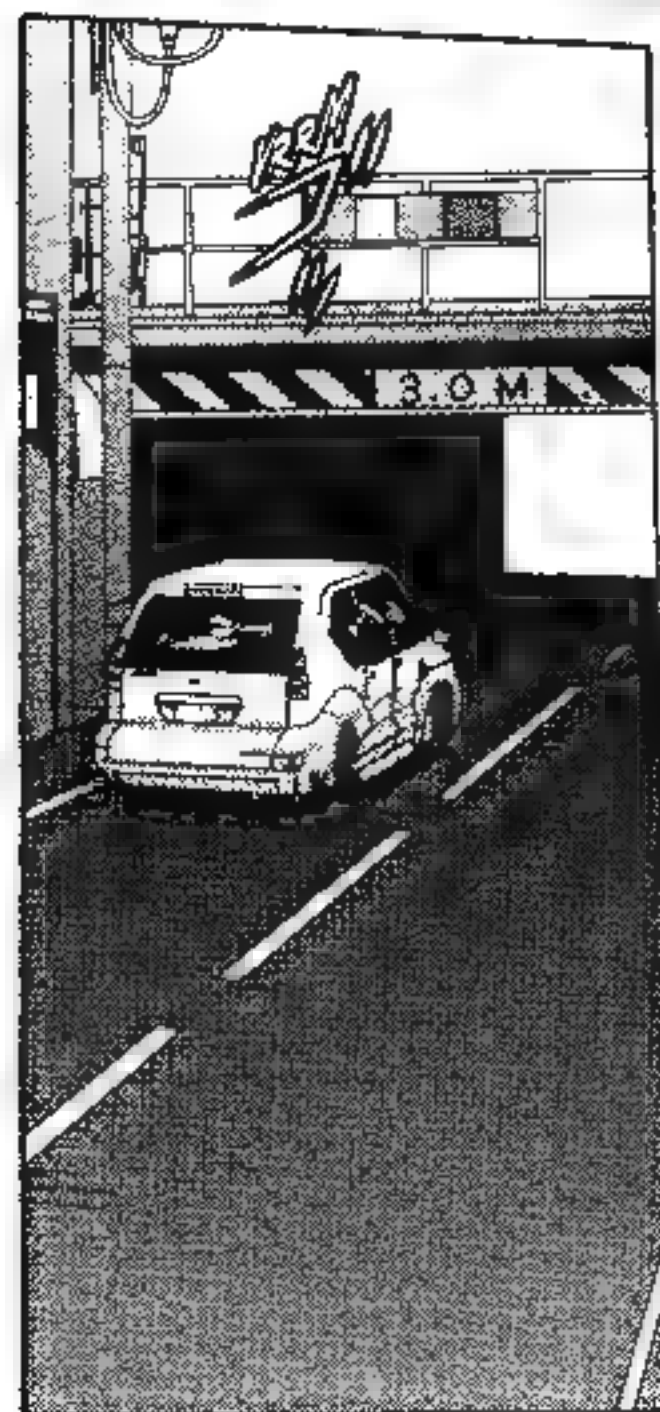


AFTER ALL
I'M
STANDING
WITH YOU
FOR THE
WHOLE
ROLLER
COASTER
RIDE



NO
MATTER
WHAT

THE
PLACE
WHERE
MY
FATHER
DIED





I KINDA
CAN'T
HELP BUT
WONDER
WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO
HIME-
SAN.

Y'KNOW,
RECENTLY
...



I MEAN,
SHE SEEMS
LIKE A
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
PERSON
SOMETIMES.



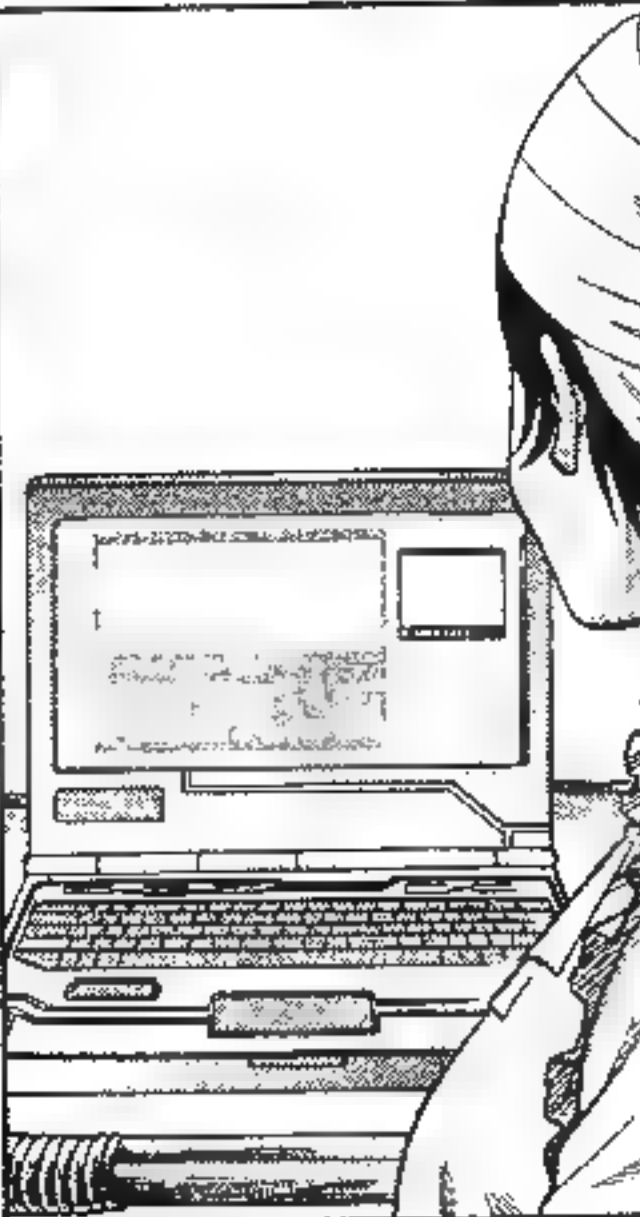
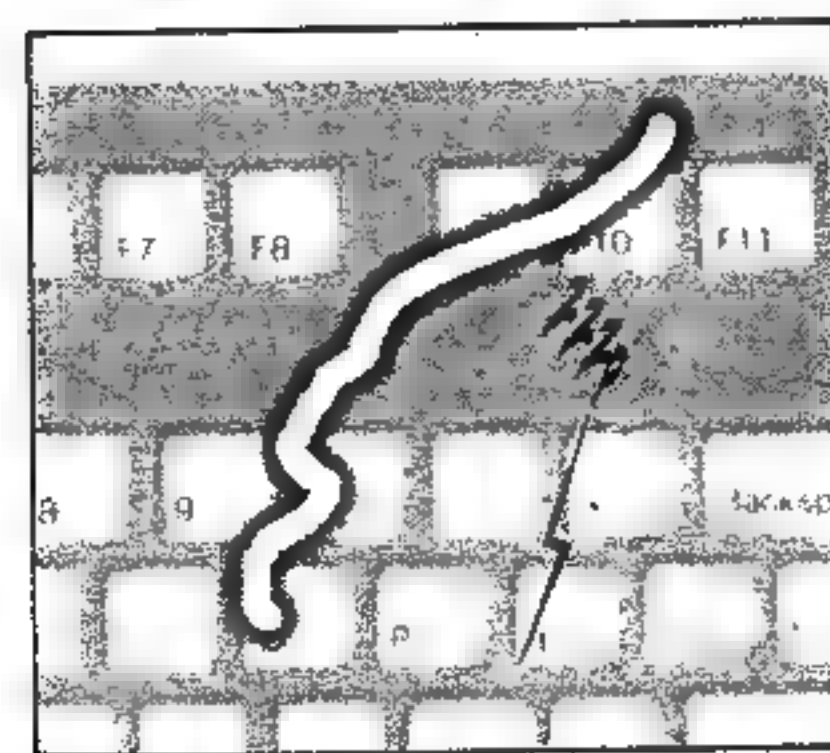
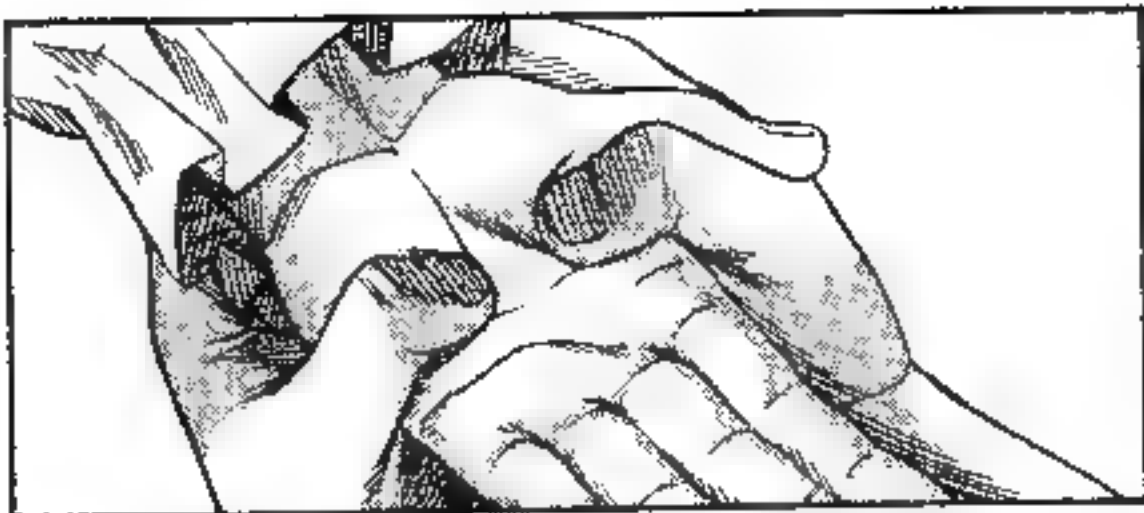
I'M
THINKING
SHE'S
STILL NOT
RECOVERED
FROM WHAT
SHE...
LM, WHAT
HAPPENED
TO
NANAMI-
SAN.

AND THEN
THERE'S THE
FACT THAT
YUZURU IS
STILL
MISSING.
SHE MUST'VE
TAKEN IT A
LOT HARDER
THAN I
EXPECTED.



NOD

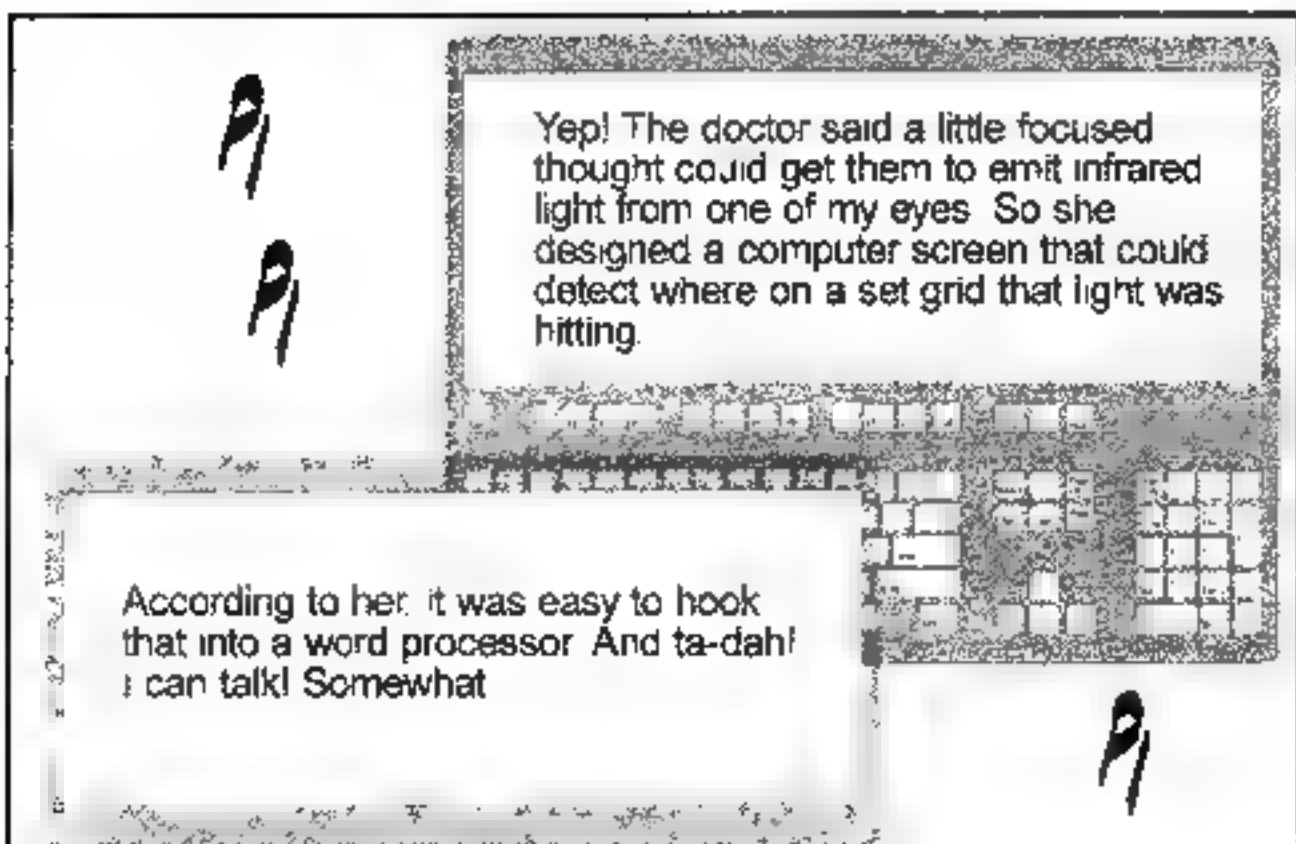
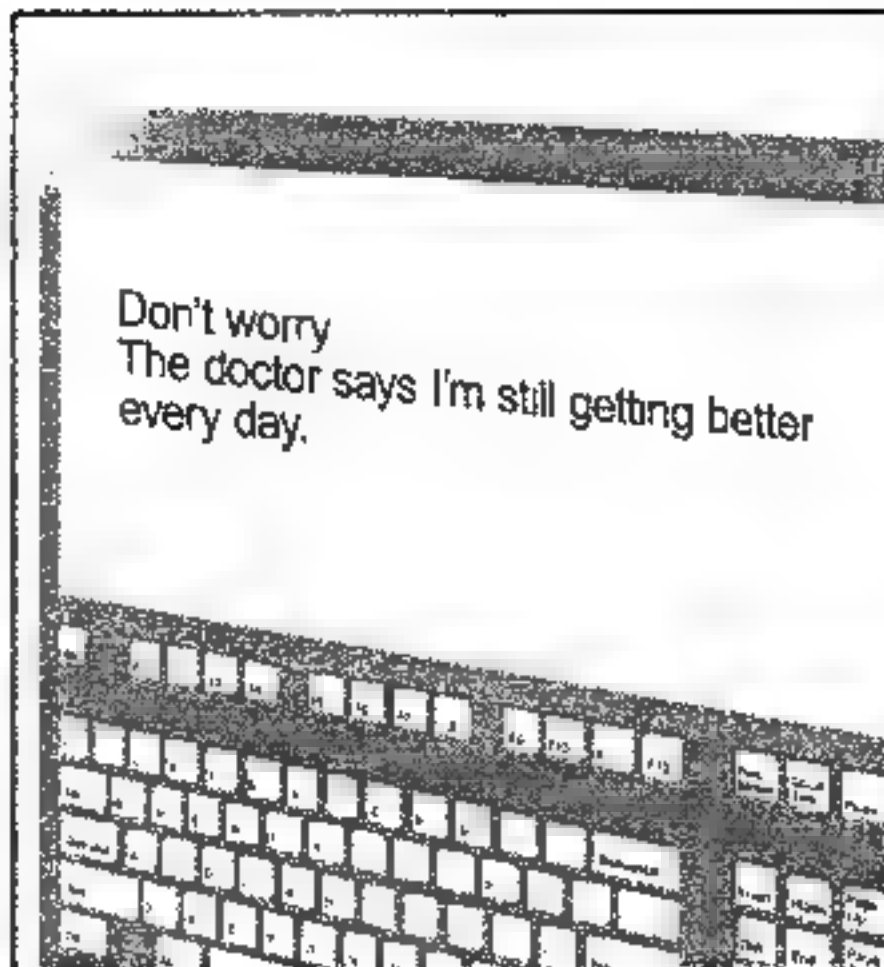
SHE
HASN'T
COME TO
SEE YOU
IN AGES
EITHER,
RIGHT?
IT'S SO
WEIRD...



Don't worry. The doctor says——

AA

A





. told Hime-sama to keep it secret!

I guess I should have known better
She **always** tells you everything



YOU'VE STARTED IT ALREADY, RIGHT?

AND NOW YOU'VE GOT ALL THE TIME YOU WANT TO WRITE YOUR NEXT BOOK.



Oh. Well I started it ages ago.

At least she hasn't told you about our newest secret. It's about this computer's name

HUH...? YOU GAVE A NAME TO YOUR LAPTOP?

Yeah.



JUST THAT YOU STARTED ONE.

OH, RELAX. SHE HASN'T TOLD ME THAT MUCH.



We thought about it together

And decided to use a name from a story we both really love.

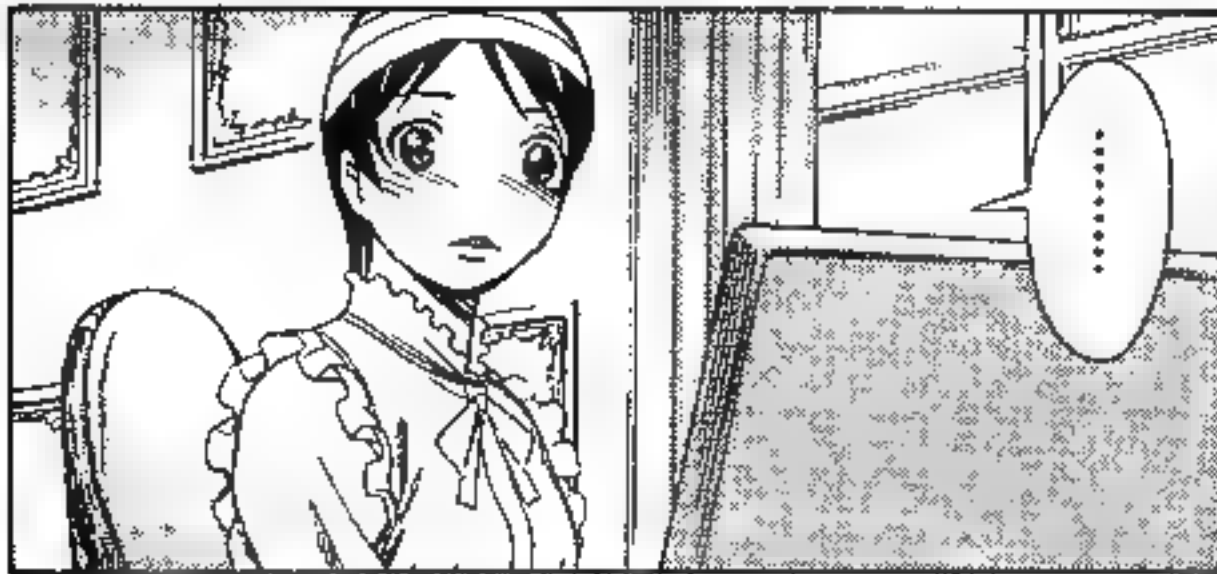


Could you tell her to
come visit me every
once in a while?



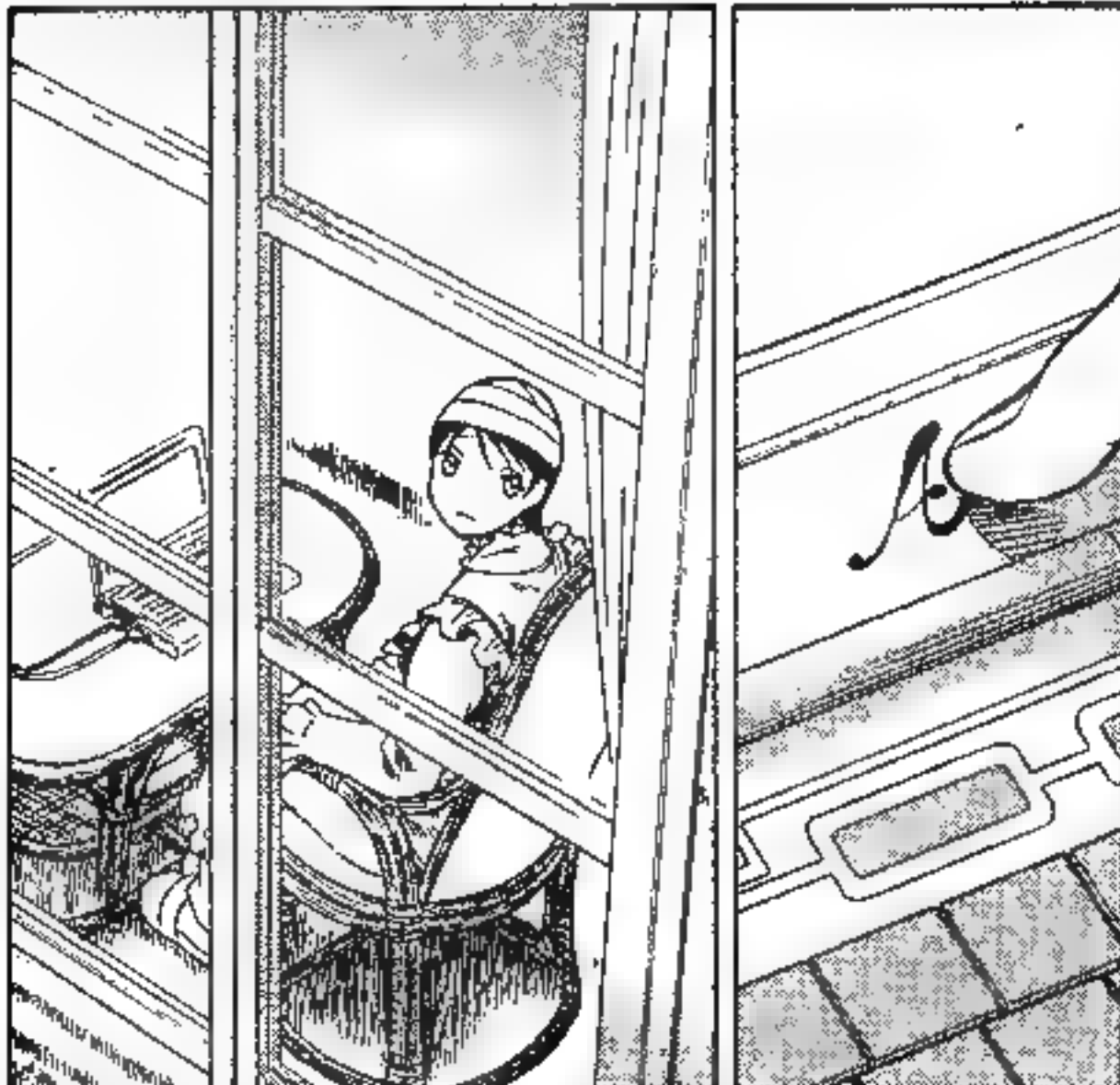
REALLY...
SO
WHAT
IS IT?

I told you,
it's a secret!!



LATER.

SURE.
I'LL LET
HER
KNOW.





AND WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE?



H.ME-SAN!



IF IT IS NOTHING IMPORTANT, I SUGGEST YOU COME AGAIN LATER. HER MAJESTY IS BUSY.



"BUSINESS"? WHAT, DO I NEED "OFFICIAL BUSINESS" TO COME AND SEE HIME-SAN NOW?



WHOA, HOLD ON! SINCE WHEN HAVE I NEEDED YOUR PERMISSION TO TALK TO HER IF I WANTED TO?

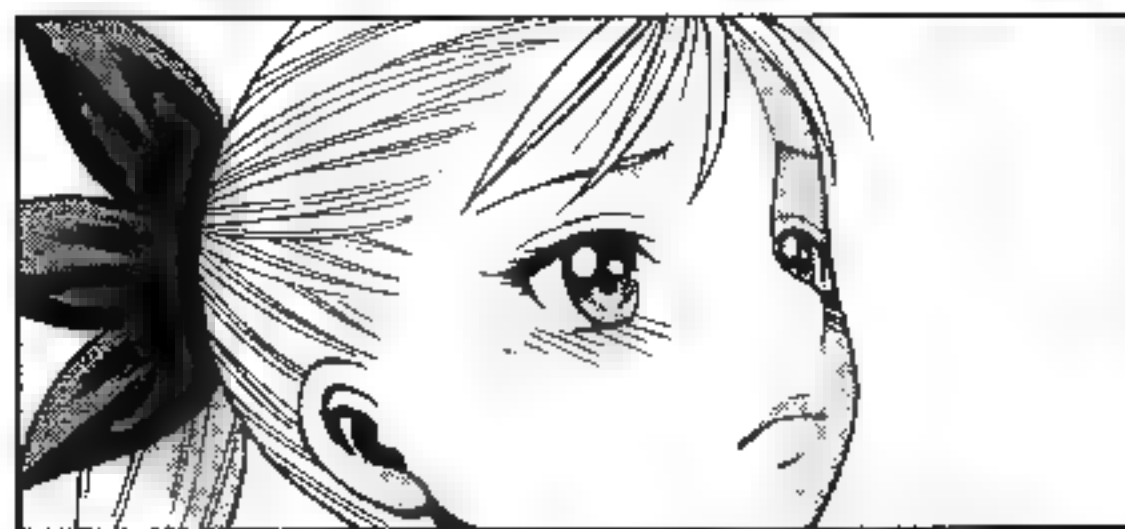




YOU
AREN'T
HIDING
ANYTHING
FROM ME,
ARE
YOU?



HIME-
SAN...



WHAT
?!

ACTUALLY,
AKIRA...
I AM.





I TRADED
PLACES
WITH THE
REAL MINA,
AND SENT
HER OFF
INTO THE
DARKNESS.
SHE'S GONE
NOW,
AND WILL
NEVER
COME
BACK.



I'M NOT
REALLY
MINA.
I'M AN
IMPOSTER.
A FAKE
CREATED
TO LOOK
JUST LIKE
HER!



BUT NO,
YOU'RE GOING
TO SCREW
AROUND AND
COME UP
WITH LAME
JOKES!
WELL, FINE!
I KNOW
BETTER NOW
THAN TO
SHOW I
CARE!

JUST
QUIT IT
ALREADY!
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA HOW
WORRIED
I'VE
BEEN FOR
YOU?



HUH
?

QUIT
IT!!



I'M A
WEREWOLF,
REMEMBER?
DON'T
DIS THE
NOSE!
YOU SMELL
LIKE YOU
ALWAYS
HAVE!!

HELL NO!
JUST HOW
LONG DO
YOU THINK
WE'VE
BEEN
TOGETHER
BY NOW?



AKIRA,
WAIT!

YOU
DON'T
DOUBT
WHO
I AM?
YOU DON'T
BELIEVE
WHAT I
SAID,
EVEN A
TINY LITTLE
BIT...?



AND
SCENTS...
THEY
DON'T
LIE!



SMIRK...



WHY?

AKIRA,
KNEEL
DOWN
FOR A
MOMENT.

OH,
DO IT
AL-
READY.



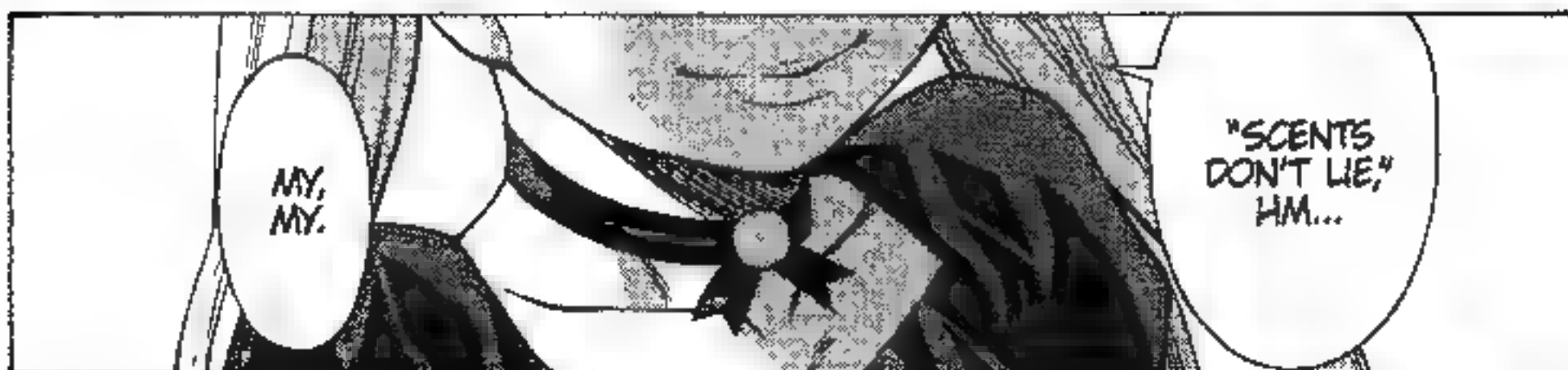


OF
COURSE!



DON'T
FORGET
ABOUT
YUKI.
SHE
MISSES
YOU...

IF
YOU'VE
GOT THE
TIME,
GO VISIT
HER
EVERY
NOW AND
AGAIN,
OKAY?



MY,
MY.

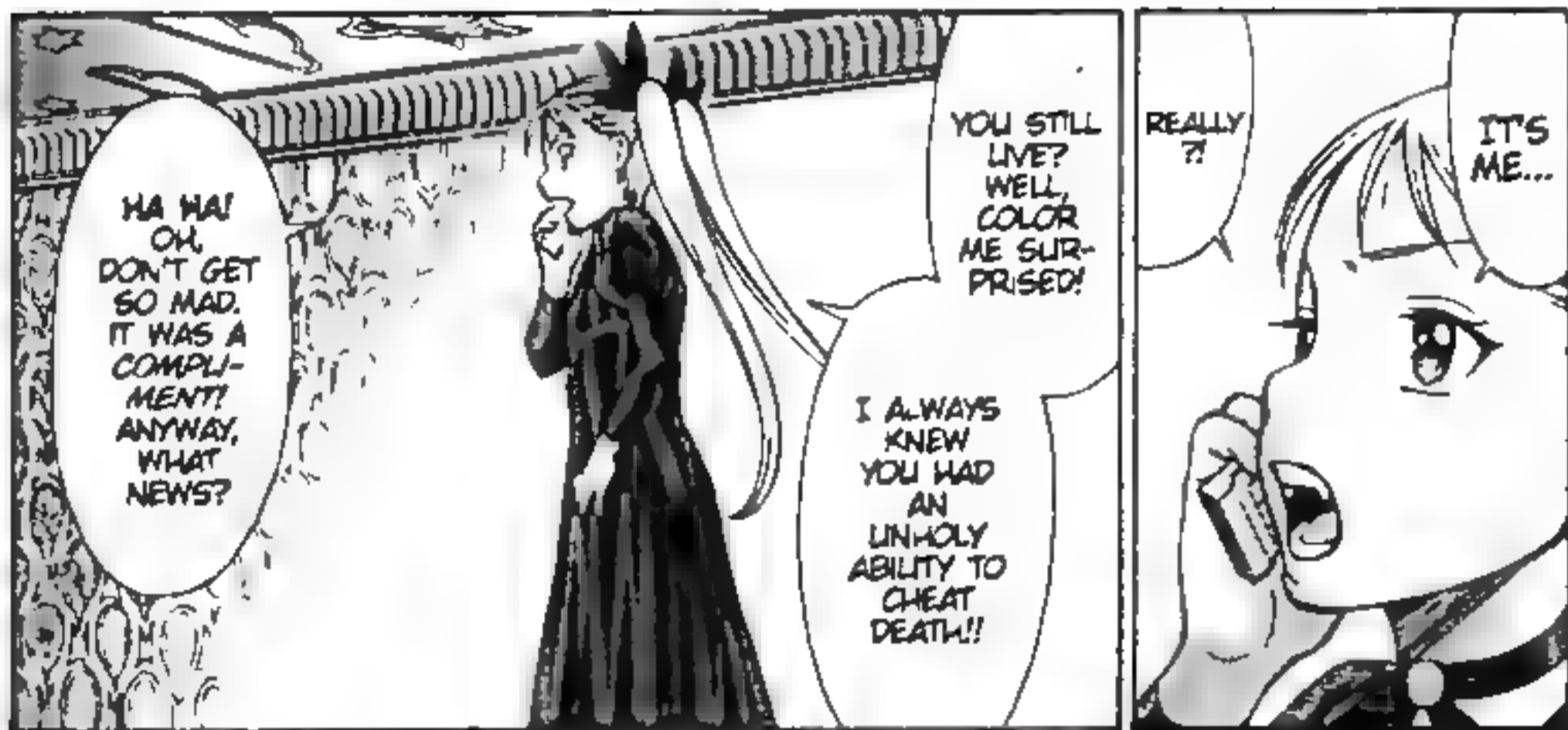
"SCENTS
DON'T LIE,"
HM...



BRILLING



ARE YOU
CERTAIN
YOU
SHOULD
BELIEVE
THAT,
MY LITTLE
WOLF-
BOY?



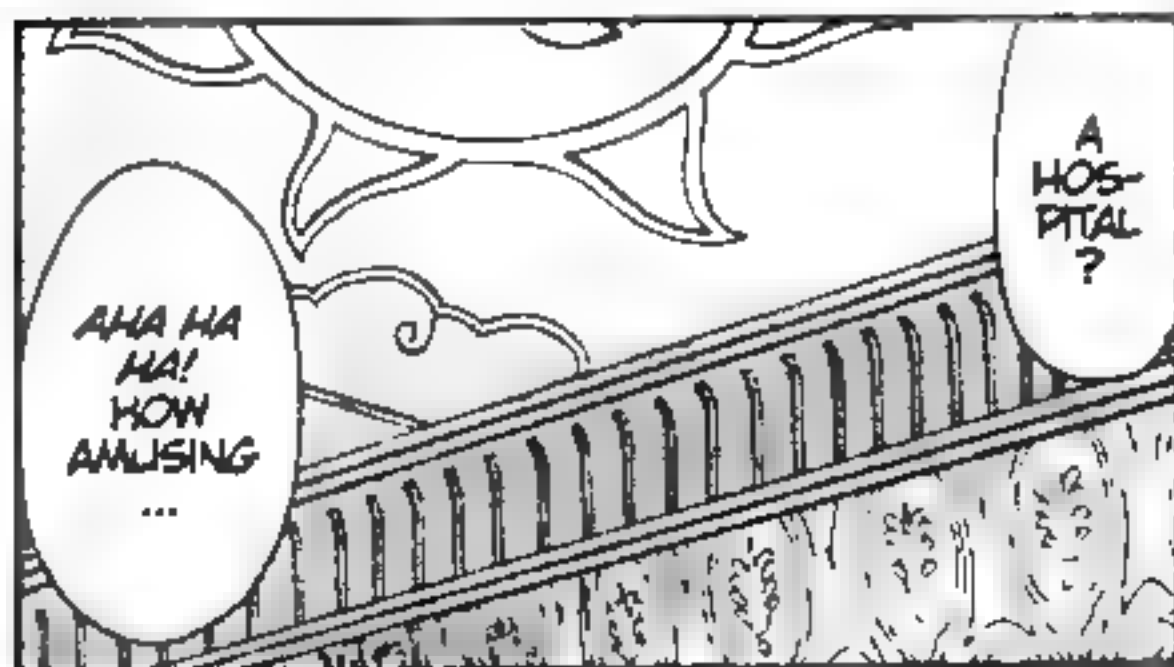
HA HA!
OH,
DON'T GET
SO MAD.
IT WAS A
COMPLI-
MENT!
ANYWAY,
WHAT
NEWS?

YOU STILL
LIVE?
WELL,
COLOR
ME SUR-
PRISED!

I ALWAYS
KNEW
YOU HAD
AN
UNHOLY
ABILITY TO
CHEAT
DEATH!!

REALLY
?!

IT'S
ME...



AHA HA
HA!
HOW
AMUSING
...

A
HOS-
PITAL
?



MY,
SUCH
LANGUAGE!
OH, STOP
COMPLAINING
SO
MUCH...

EXCELLENT.
NOW IS
WHEN WE
WILL GET
TRULY BUSY.
I WILL HAVE
PLENTY FOR
YOU TO DO,
SO BE
READY.

I WILL
SPEAK
WITH YOU
AGAIN
LATER.



AAH,
SO IT
HAS
BEGIN
...?

WHERE
WAS IT
DISCOVERED
?

AS FROM
THE
FLAME

ALL
THE
WORLD



THIS
WRETCHED
COUNTRY

THE
PEOPLE
OF THIS
DISTASTEFUL
COUNTRY

BEHOLD
THE
WRETCHED
COUNTRY

EVERY-
THING
THAT
EXISTS
WILL BE
BURNED
TO
ASH!!

AS FROM
THE
FLAME
INTO AN
ENDLESS
CAPTIVITY
THAT WILL
BURN
EVERYTHING
IN ITS
PATH

OH,
I DO
HOPE
SO!!

WILL YOU
BE
THE
LAST
ONE
TO
BE
BURNED
TO
ASH





YO,
JESSICA.

NICE
JOB
OUT
THERE.



THANKS.

BE
CAREFUL,
OKAY?
A REAL
CREEP
JUST
CAME
IN.

GOOD
LUCK
OUT
THERE...



GOOD-
BYE!!

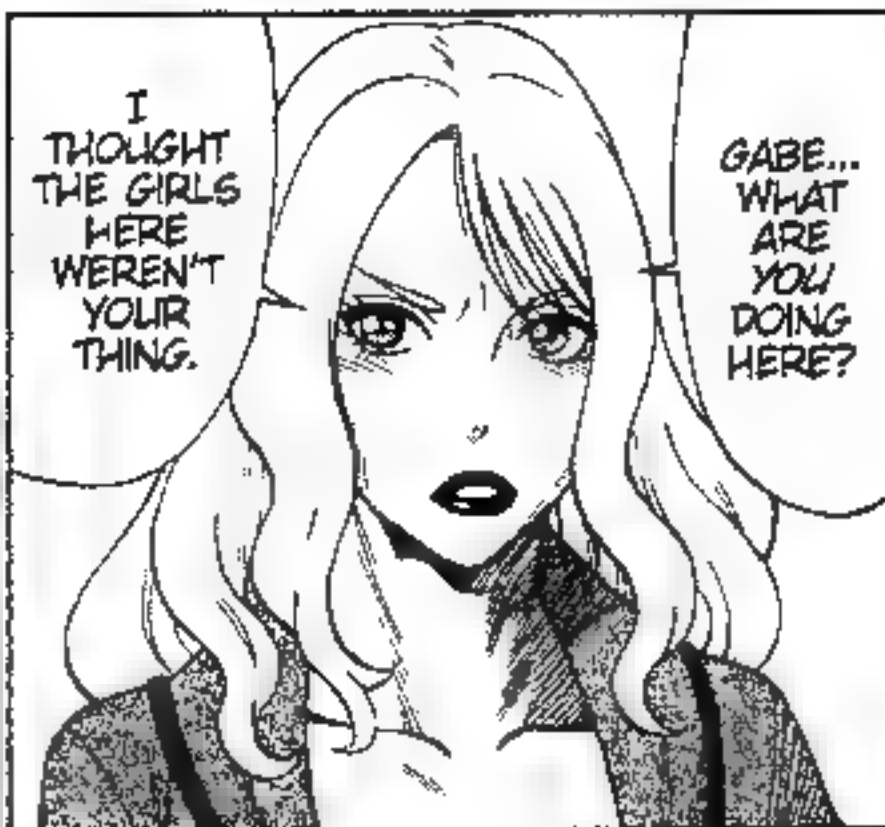
GOOD LUCK
FINDING
WHOEVER IT
IS YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR. NOW,
I'VE GOT
TO LEAVE!



I WAS
JUST TRYIN'
TO BE POLITE,
AN' SAY "HI"
BY THE WAY,
HOW'S YOUR
LITTLE GIRL
DOIN'? SUSY,
WAS IT?
HOW OLD
IS SHE
NOW?

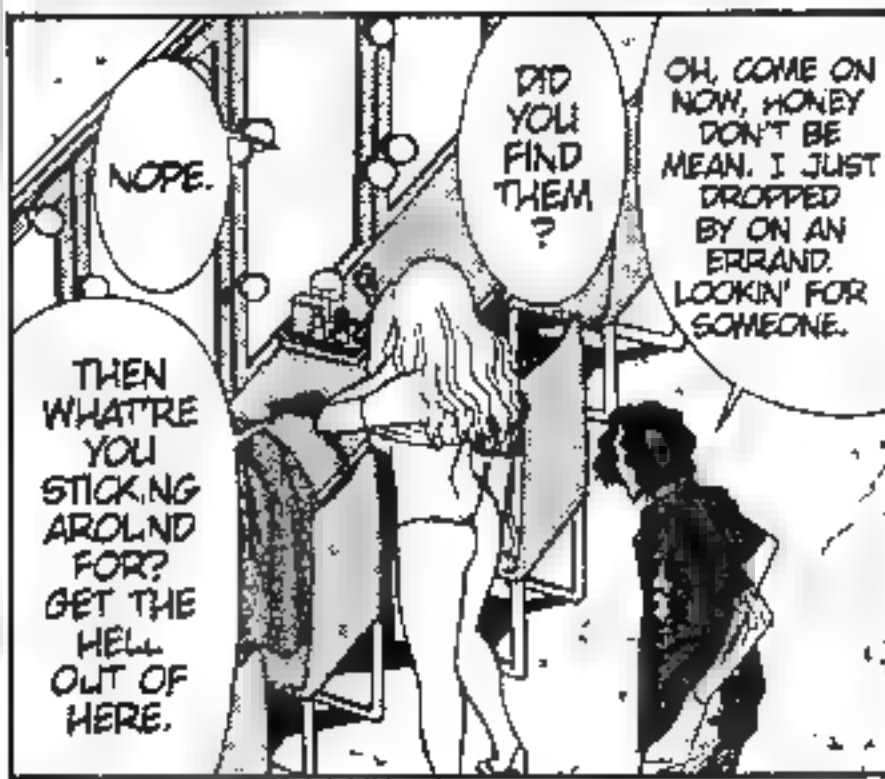
TSK,
TSK.
SUCH A
MOUTH
ON YOU,
HONEY...

THAT'S
NONE
OF
YOUR
BUSI-
NESS!!



I
THOUGHT
THE GIRLS
HERE
WEREN'T
YOUR
THING.

GABE...
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
HERE?



NOPE.

THEN
WHAT'RE
YOU
STICKING
AROUND
FOR?
GET THE
HELL
OUT OF
HERE.


DID
YOU
FIND
THEM?

OH, COME ON
NOW, HONEY
DON'T BE
MEAN. I JUST
DROPPED
BY ON AN
ERRAND.
LOOKIN' FOR
SOMEONE.



HE EVEN
HAD THE
NERVE TO
COME UP
AND ASK
ME HOW
OLD MY
BABY SUSY
WAS!
I HAD A
HELL OF A
TIME NOT
THROWING
UP RIGHT
ON THE
SPOT!!

BUT THAT
MAN IS A
CERTIFIED
CHILD
MOLESTER!
HELL,
HE MAKES
HIS LIVING
OFF OF
CHILD
PORN!!



AIN'T
GOT MUCH
CHOICE ON
THAT ONE.
HIS GANG'S
THE ONE
THAT RUNS
THIS TURF
AN' ALL.

MILES!
HOW COULD
YOU LET
THAT SLIME
INTO THE
"BACKYARD"
?!

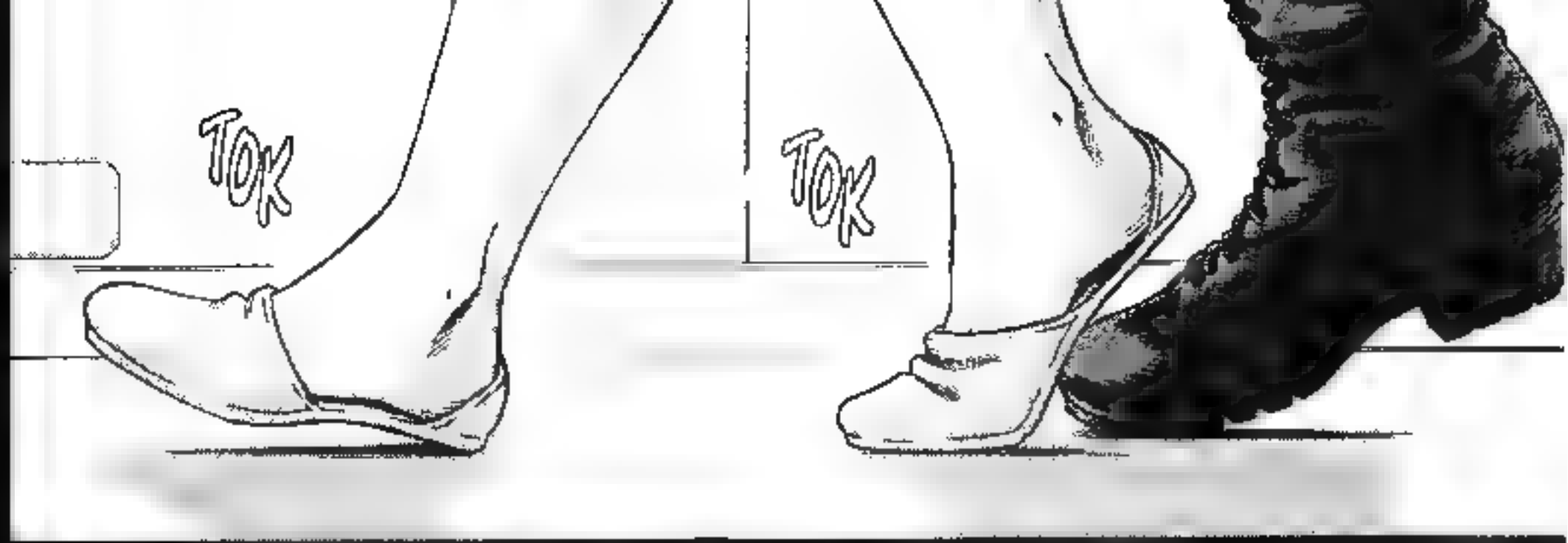




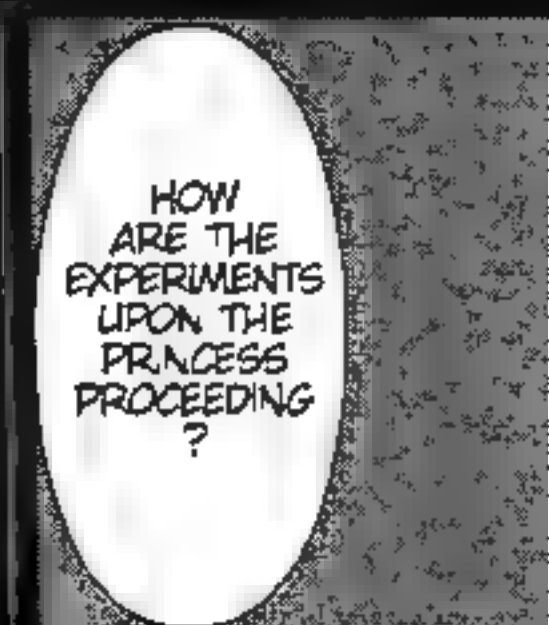
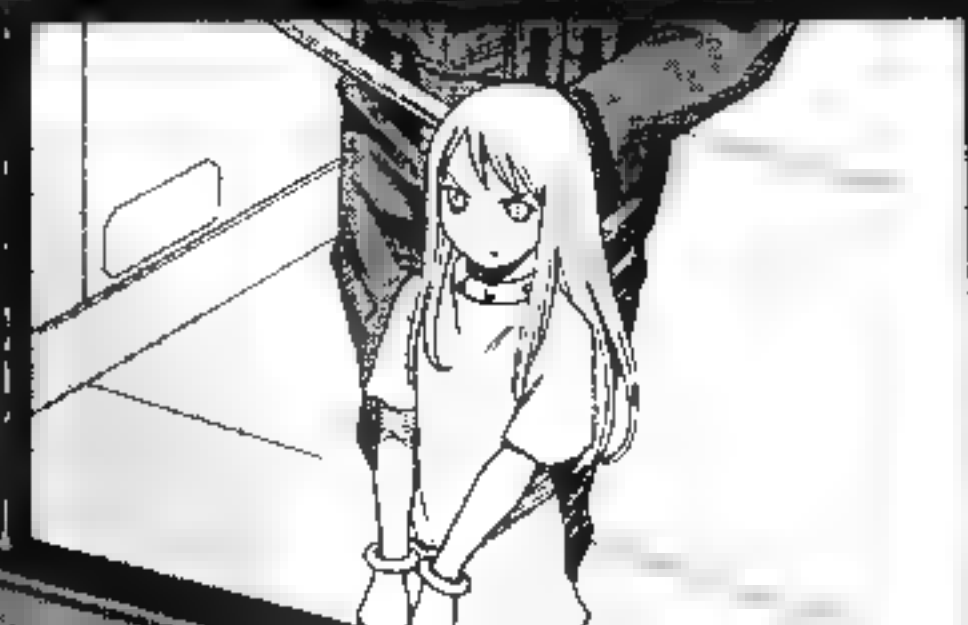
AND IF
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
EVER
GETTING
WITHIN A
MILE OF MY
LITTLE GIRL,
I SWEAR
TO GOD,
I'LL...



Chapter 56: Like Anne Frank



EXCEL-
LENTLY,
M'LORD.



HOW
ARE THE
EXPERIMENTS
UPON THE
PRINCESS
PROCEEDING
?



「這件衣服，
是我在舊貨店
買到的，
它好像有
什麼秘密。」

「你是在說，
這件衣服
有什麼秘密？」



「你是在說，
這件衣服
有什麼秘密？」



「你是在說，
這件衣服
有什麼秘密？」



「這件衣服，
是我在舊貨店
買到的，
它好像有
什麼秘密。」



「你是在說，
這件衣服
有什麼秘密？」

「你是在說，
這件衣服
有什麼秘密？」



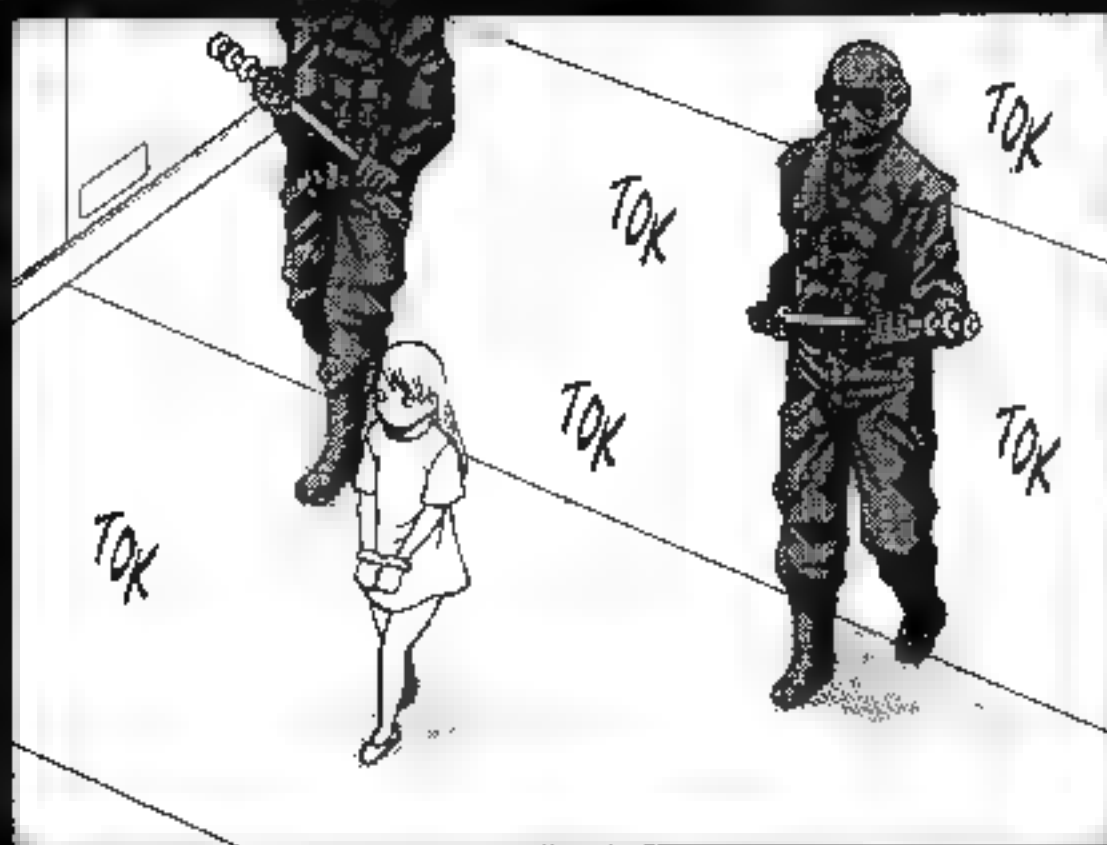
「你是在說，
這件衣服
有什麼秘密？」

AND SHE
DOES BOTH,
SO AS TO BE
READY FOR
ANY CHANCE
AT ESCAPE,
NO MATTER
HOW
SMALL OR
FLEETING...



SHE DOES
NOT SPEAK,
SO AS TO
CONSERVE
EVERY LAST
DROP OF HER
ENERGY.

SHE DOES
NOT SLEEP,
SO AS TO
PROVIDE US
WITH NO
MOMENT OF
WEAKNESS
TO EXPLOIT.



TRULY,
MY
LOVELY
BRIDE IS
A MOST
FORMI-
DABLE
LADY.



EVEN
BOUND
IN CHAINS
AND CAST
INTO THE
HEART
OF AN
INESCAPABLE
DUNGEON,
SHE STILL
HAS NOT
LOST HER
FANGS.



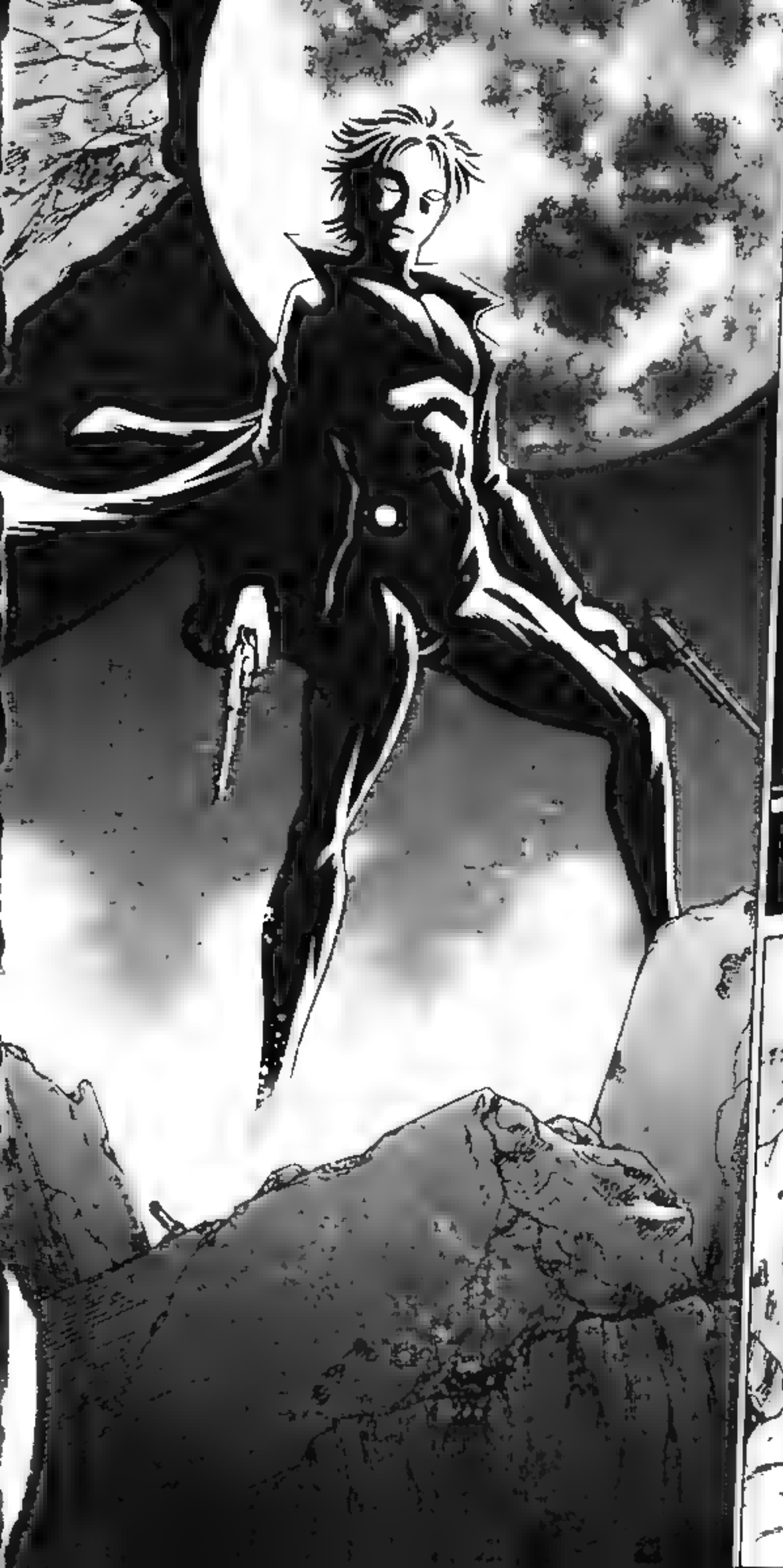








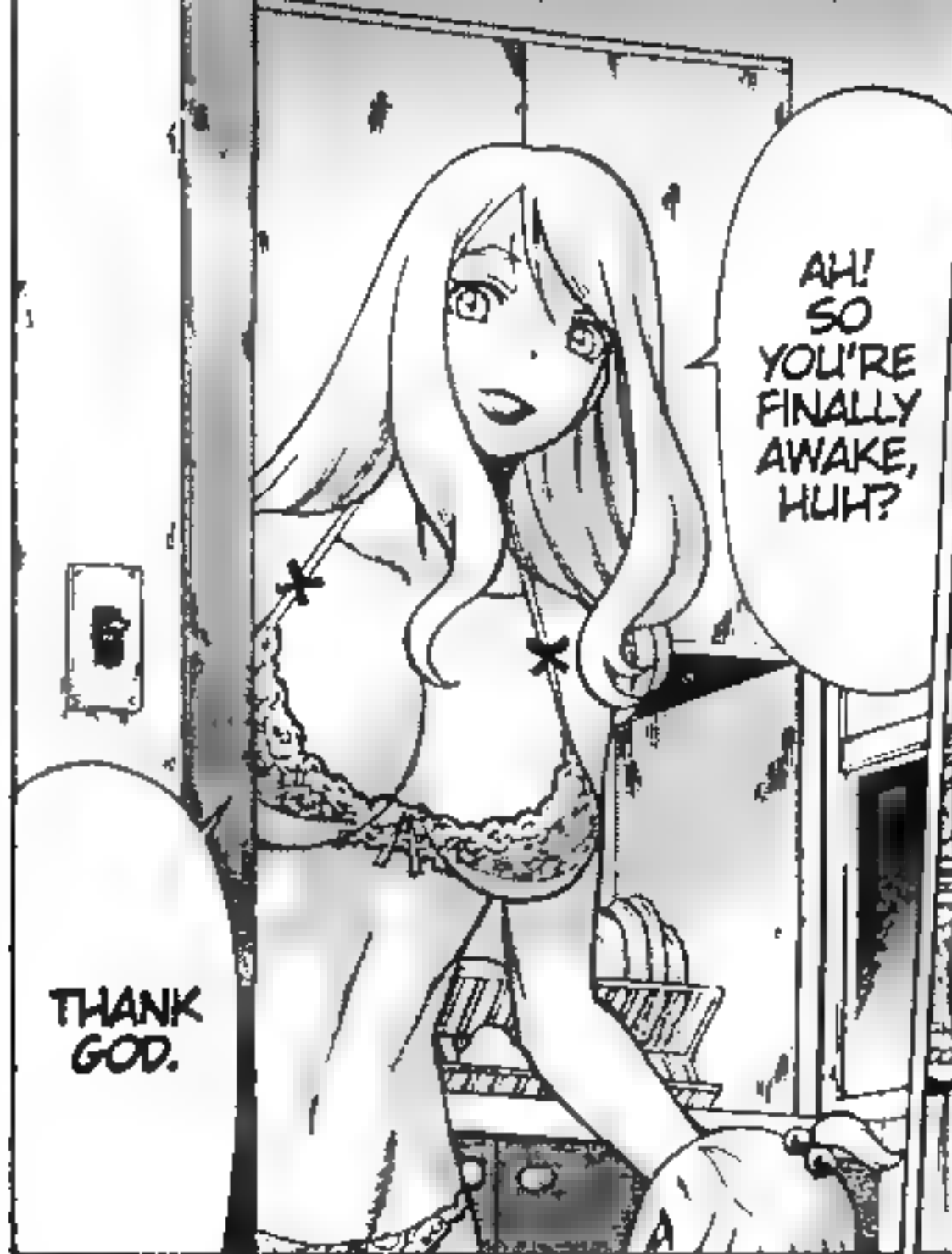


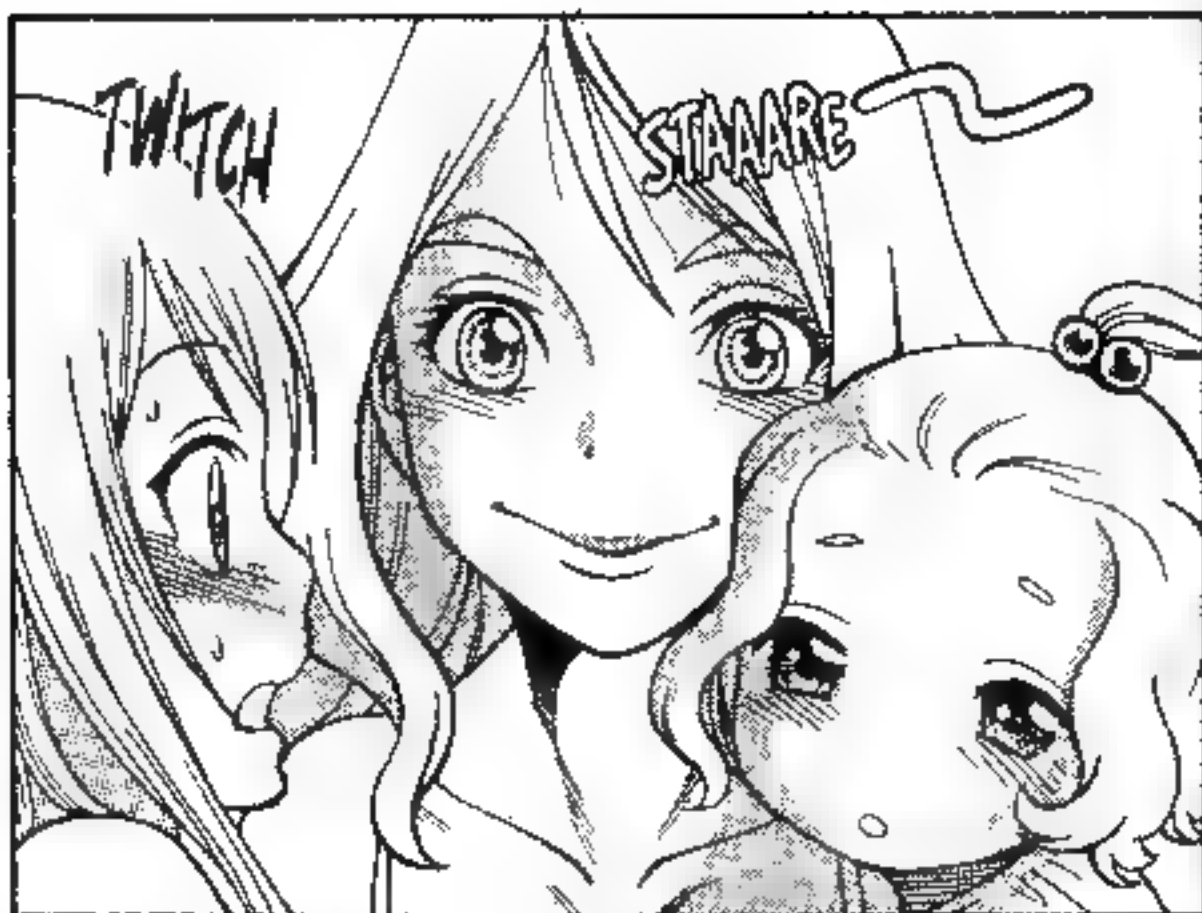


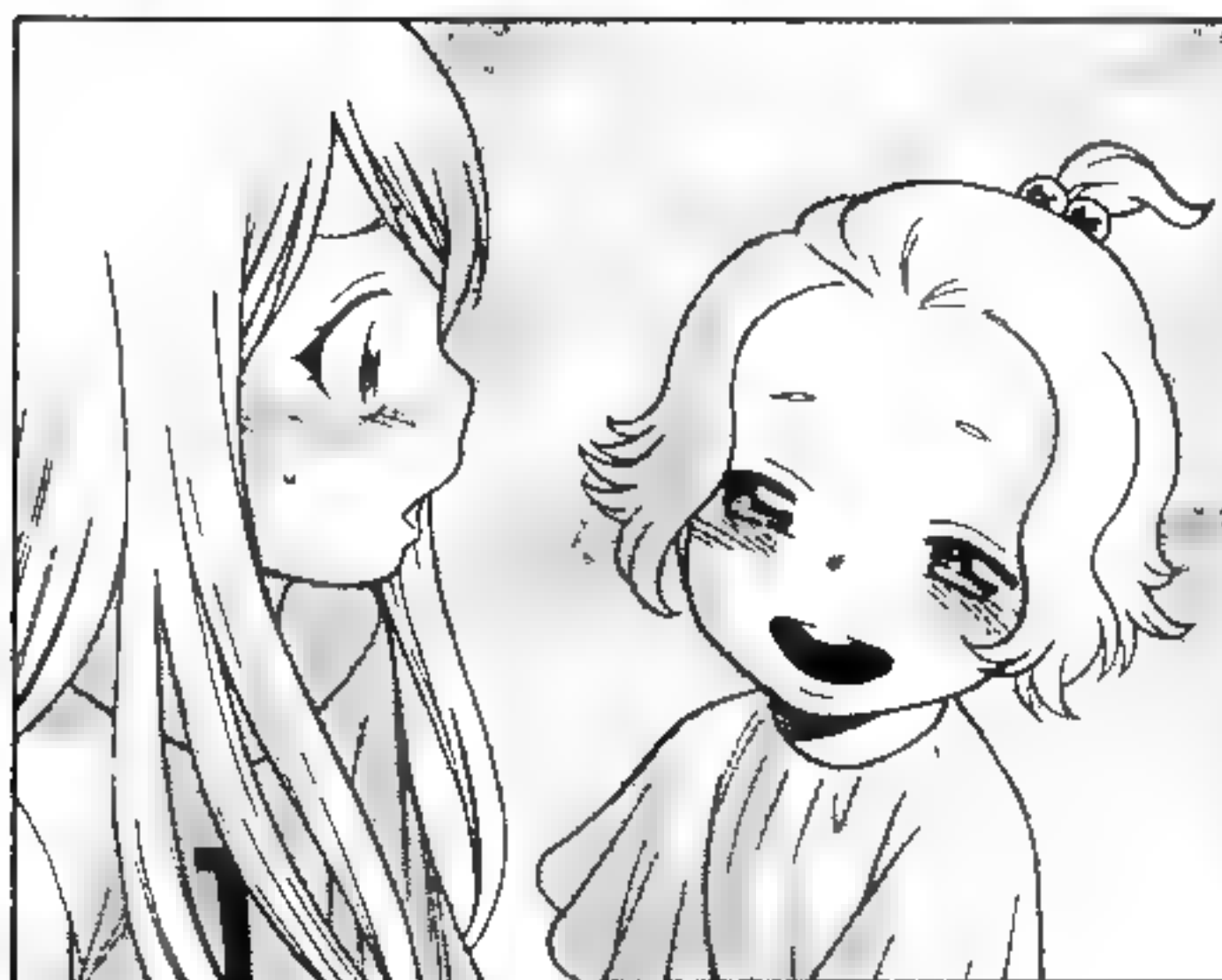
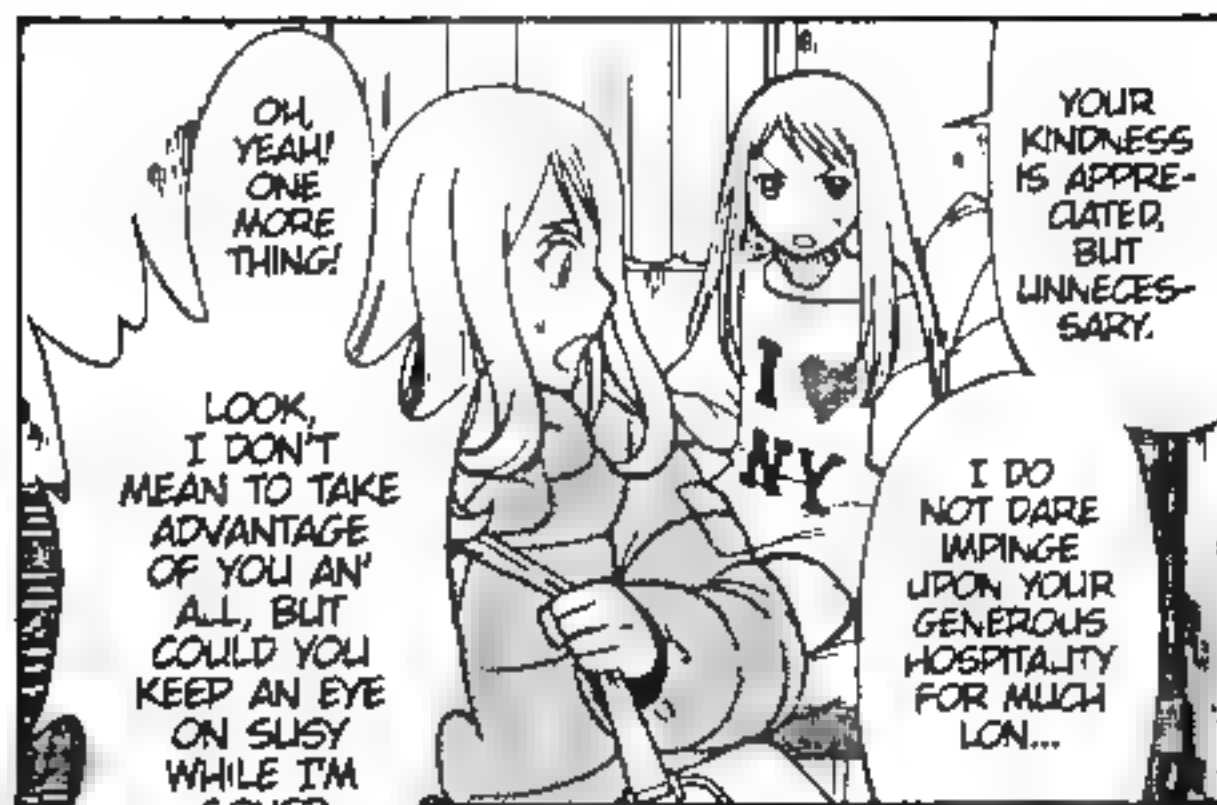








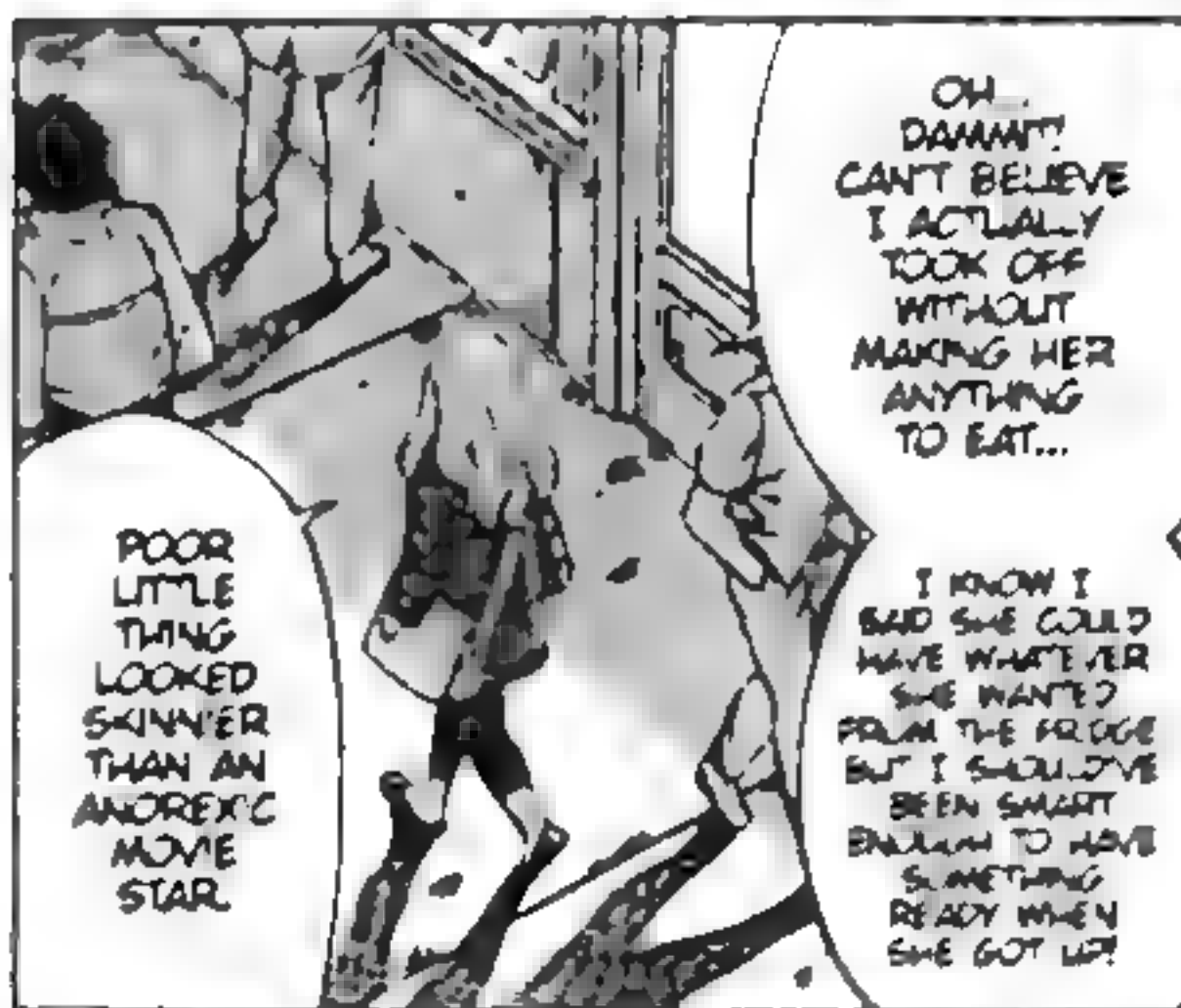






LITTLE ONE,
HAS ANYONE
EVER
MENTIONED
THAT YOUR
MOTHER
DOESN'T
LISTEN?

SHEESH
...



POOR
LITTLE
THING
LOOKED
SKINNER
THAN AN
ANOREXIC
MOVIE
STAR.

OH,
DAMMIT!
CAN'T BELIEVE
I ACTUALLY
TOOK OFF
WITHOUT
MAKING HER
ANYTHING
TO EAT...

I KNOW I
SAID SHE COULD
HAVE WHATEVER
SHE WANTED
FROM THE FRIDGE
BUT I SHOULD'VE
BEEN SMART
ENOUGH TO HAVE
SOMETHING
READY WHEN
SHE GOT UP!



WHEW!
THANK
GOD SHE
FINALLY
WOKE
UP!

IF I HAD
TO GO AN'
TELL MILES
I NEEDED A
THIRD DAY OFF
IN A ROW,
THAT
TIGHTWAD
WOULD TELL
ME TO GO FIND
ANOTHER
JOB!



AND
NEXT IN
THE
NEWS...

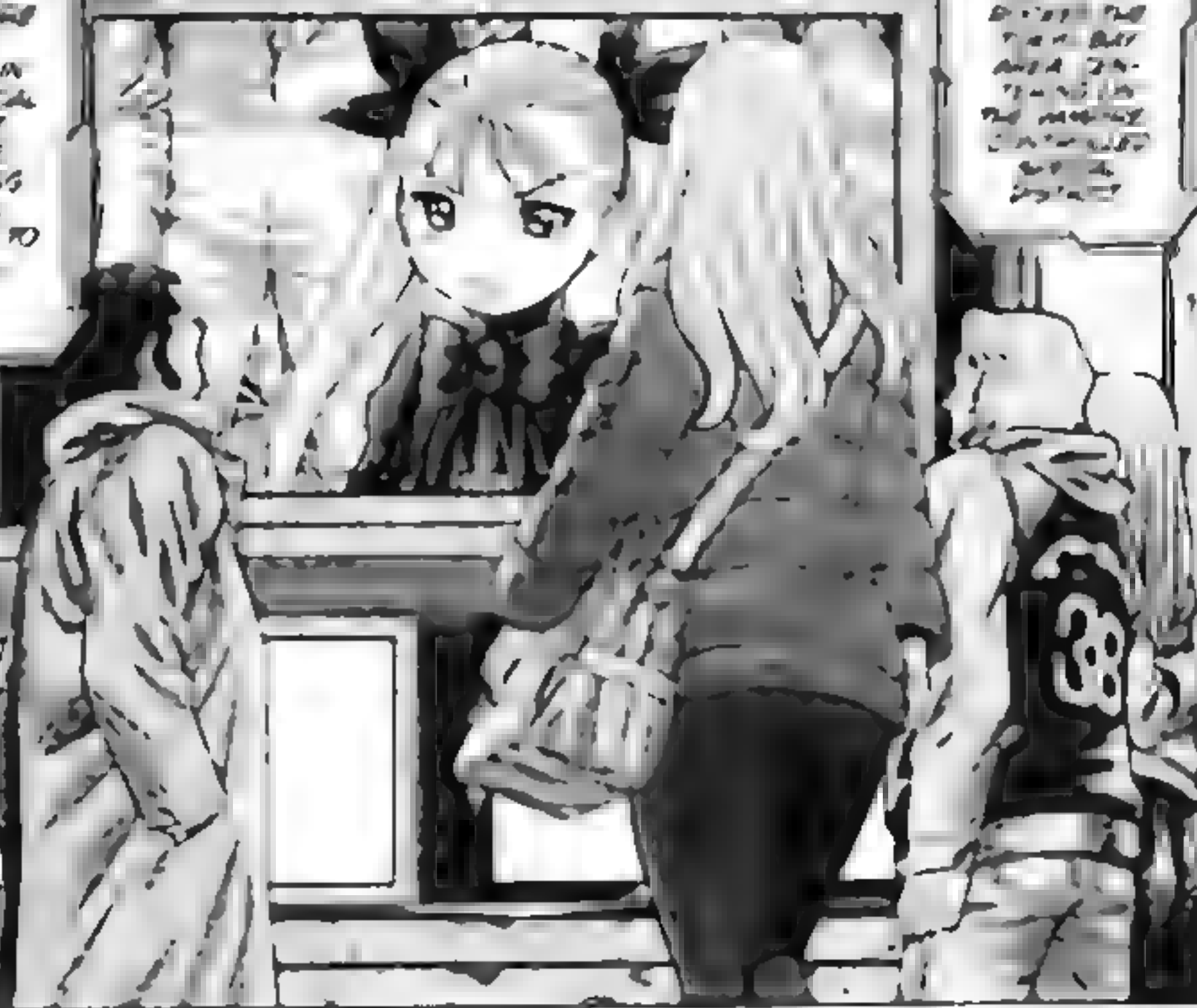
I
WONDER
WHERE
SHE'S
FROM
...?

SHE'S
SOME
RICH
FAMILY'S
GIRL,
I'D
BET...

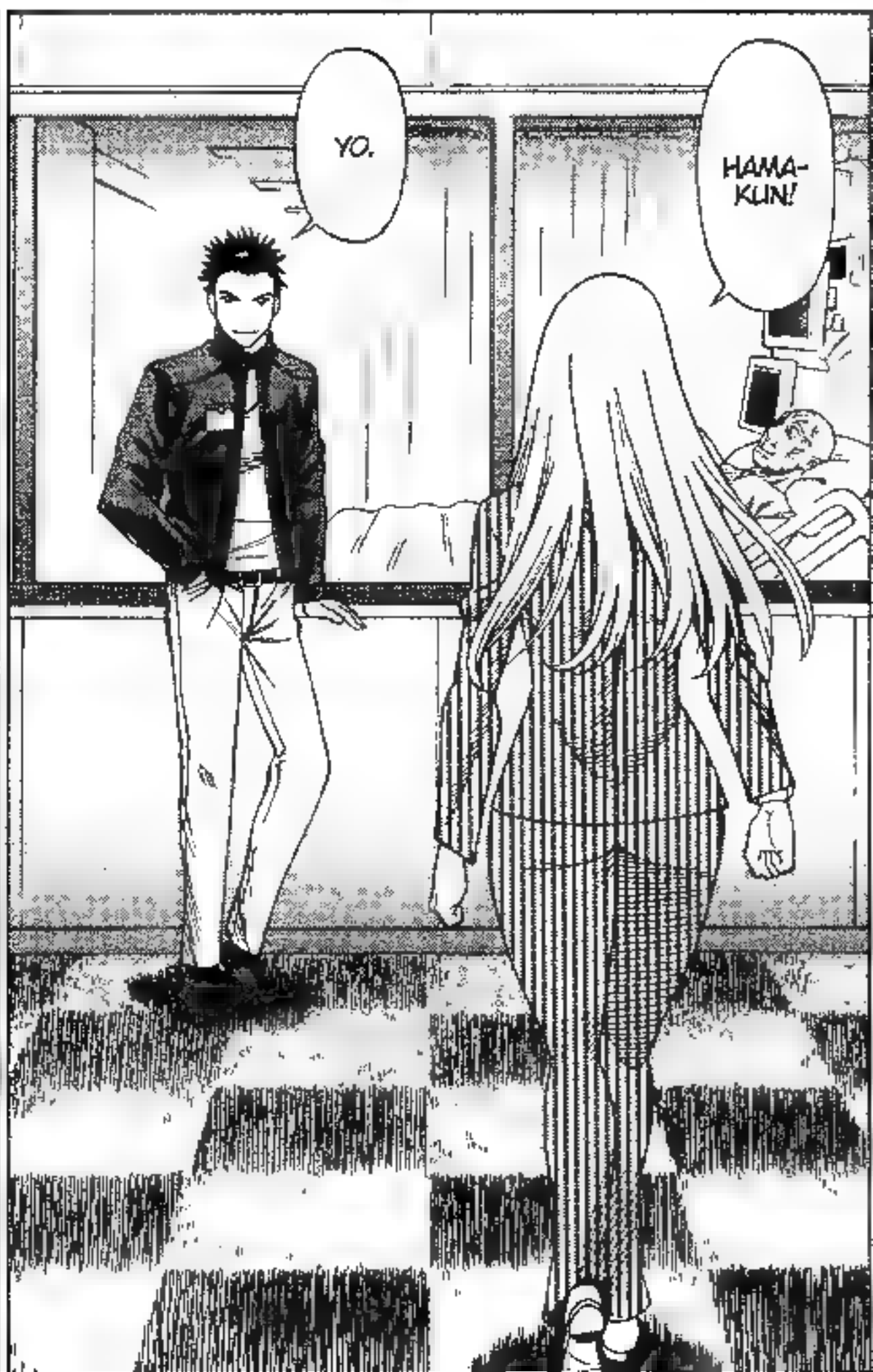
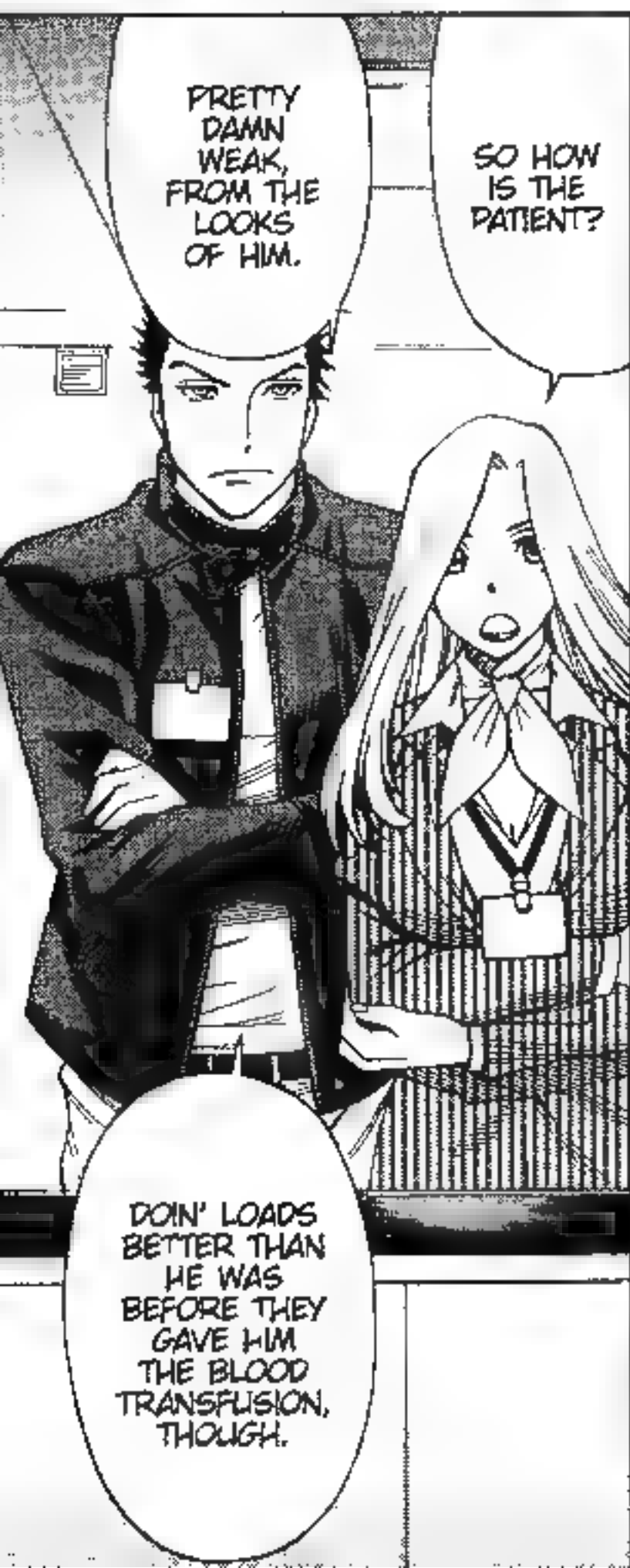
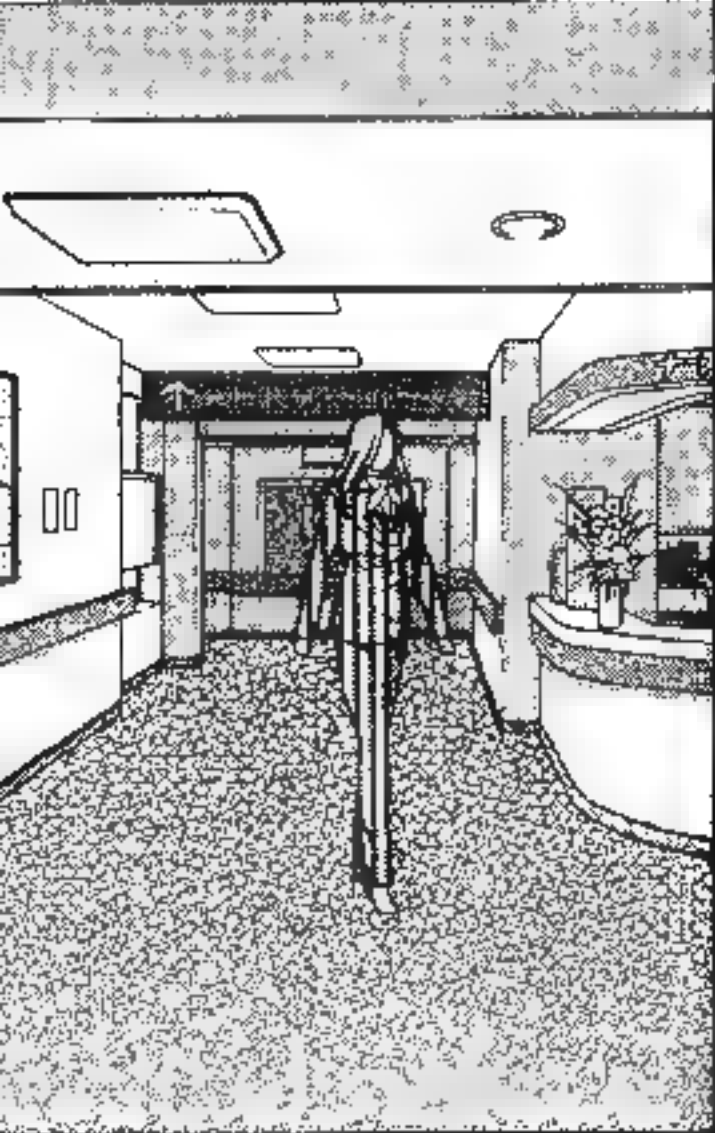
SHE WAS
SPEAKING ALL
PROPER-LIKE,
WITH
BIG WORDS
AND STUFF
AND SHE LOOKED
REAL WELL
CALLED-FOR,
OUTSIDE OF
BEING, Y'KNOW,
SKINNY.

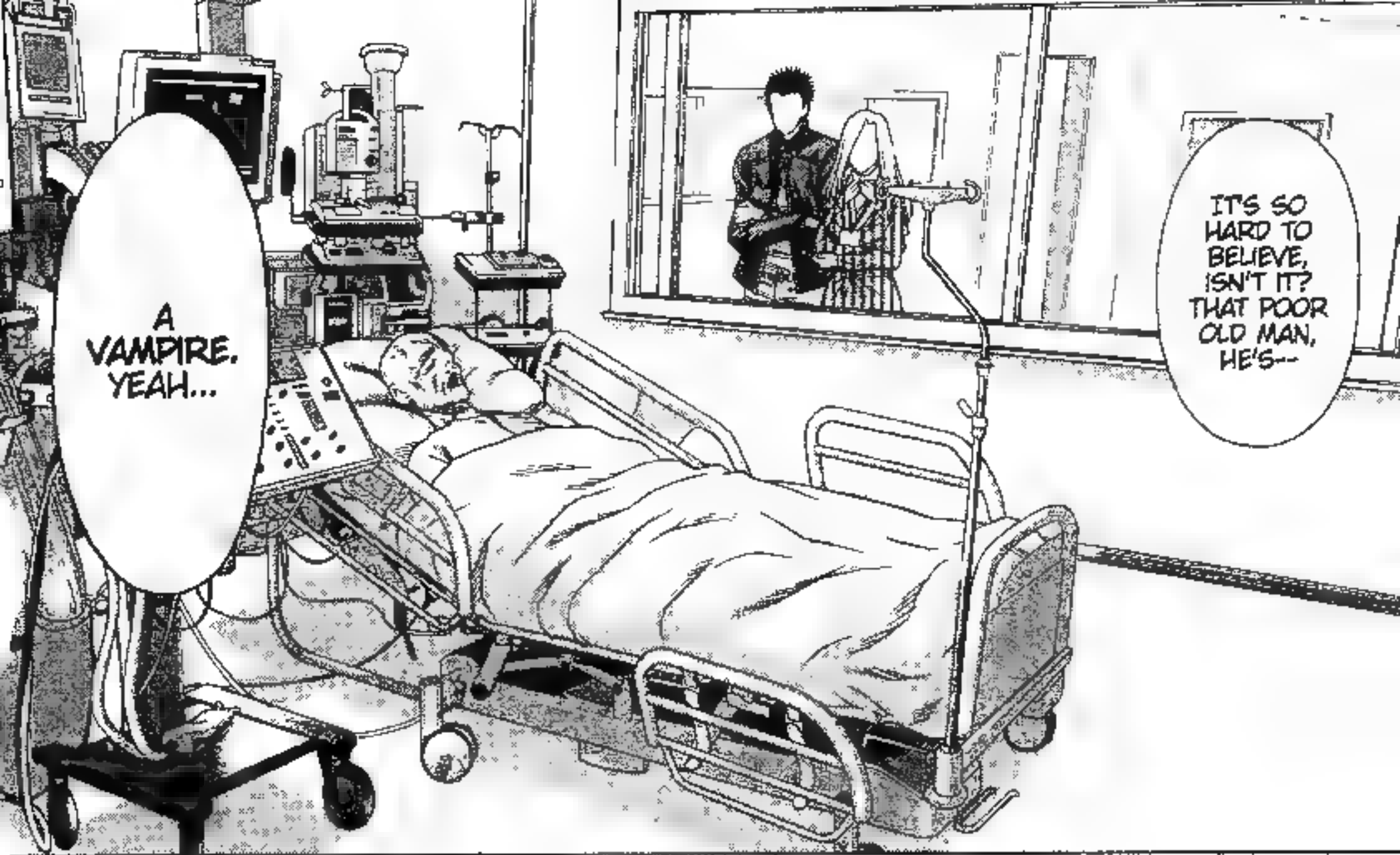
GREEN MAN
TEEN
LEADER OF
THE JUVENILE
NOT IN
UNIFORMS IN
THAT SPECIAL
JACKET
AND THE
FOLLOWING
CRIMINAL
COMMENT TO
OFFER

THEY ARE
NOT A
BUT
AND
THEY
THE
THE
AND
THE
THE
THE
THE
THE



YOUR
ATTENTION
IS





A
VAMPIRE.
YEAH...

IT'S SO
HARD TO
BELIEVE,
ISN'T IT?
THAT POOR
OLD MAN,
HE'S--



AROUND HERE,
THE ONLY
VAMPIRES
YOU'LL USUALLY
SEE ARE THOSE
THAT LIVE OVER
THERE IN THE
BLIND. YOUNG.
ATHLETIC.
ACTIVE.

AT FIRST
GLANCE,
THAT OLD
GEEZER
ISN'T MUCH
MORE THAN
SOME OLD
HOMELESS
BUM.



ALL HE
COULD DO WAS
FLAIL AROUND
AND GET
WEAKER AND
WEAKER
FROM THIRST.
GOT SO BAD
THAT HE
CRAWLED
HERE TO THE
HOSPITAL TO
BEG FOR
BLOOD.

SINCE
HE WAS
ALREADY
TOOTHLESS
WHEN HE
BECAME A
VAMPIRE,
HE DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
WAY OF
ATTACKING
PREY

HA!
THE GUY
HARDLY
HAS ANY
TEETH
PERIOD,
LET
ALONE
ONES THAT
COULD
TURN INTO
FANGS.

THIS
IS JUST A
GUESS, BUT
IT SEEMS
PRETTY
OBVIOUS HE
WAS ALREADY
PRETTY DAMN
OLD WHEN
HE WAS
INITIALLY
TURNED.

I DON'T
SEE ANY
FANGS.
IS HE
ONE OF
THE
FANGLESS
?



PRETTY ALARMING, ISN'T IT?

WAIT... ARE YOU SAYING THERE IS A GANG OF VAMPIRES LOOSE ON THE MAINLAND?

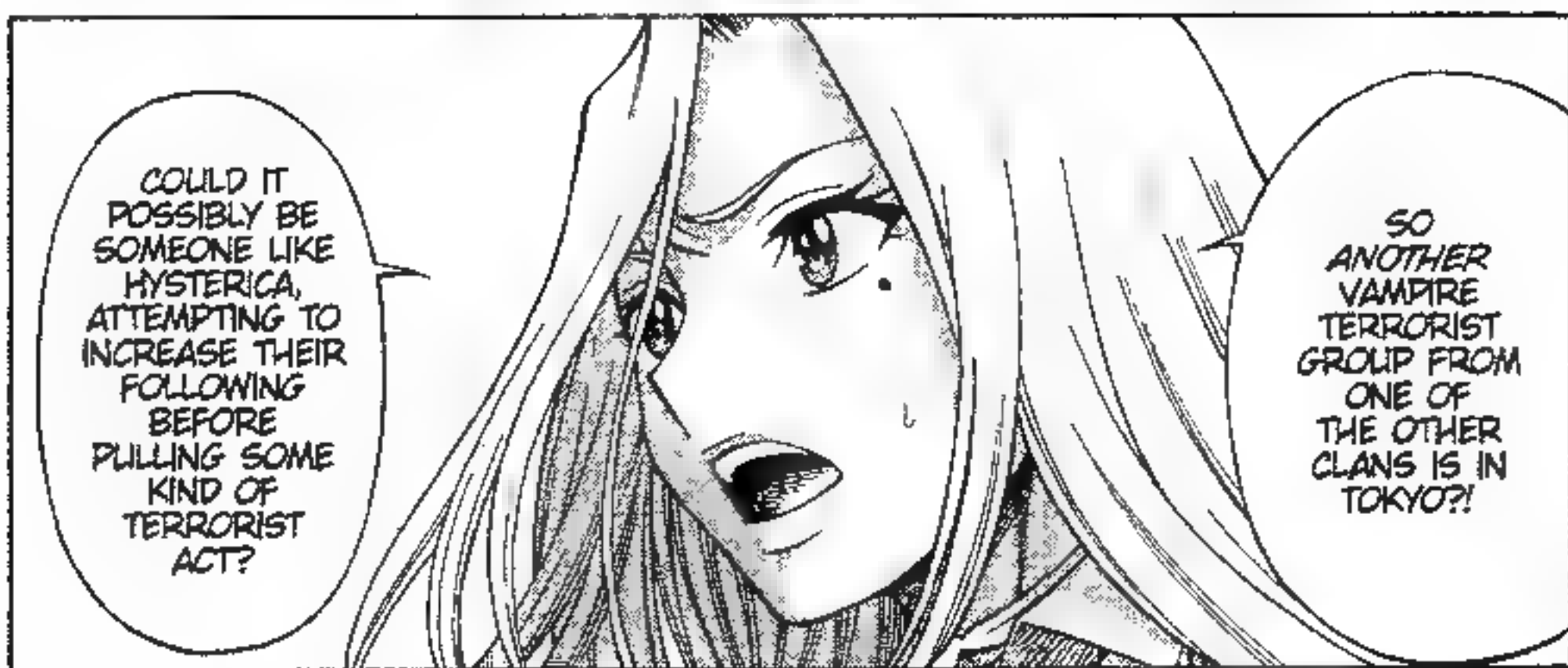


ACCORDING TO THE GEEZER HIMSELF ...

HE GOT ATTACKED. WAS SLEEPING OUT IN ONE OF THE PARKS BY THE SHORE WHEN HE GOT JUMPED BY A PACK OF 'EM.

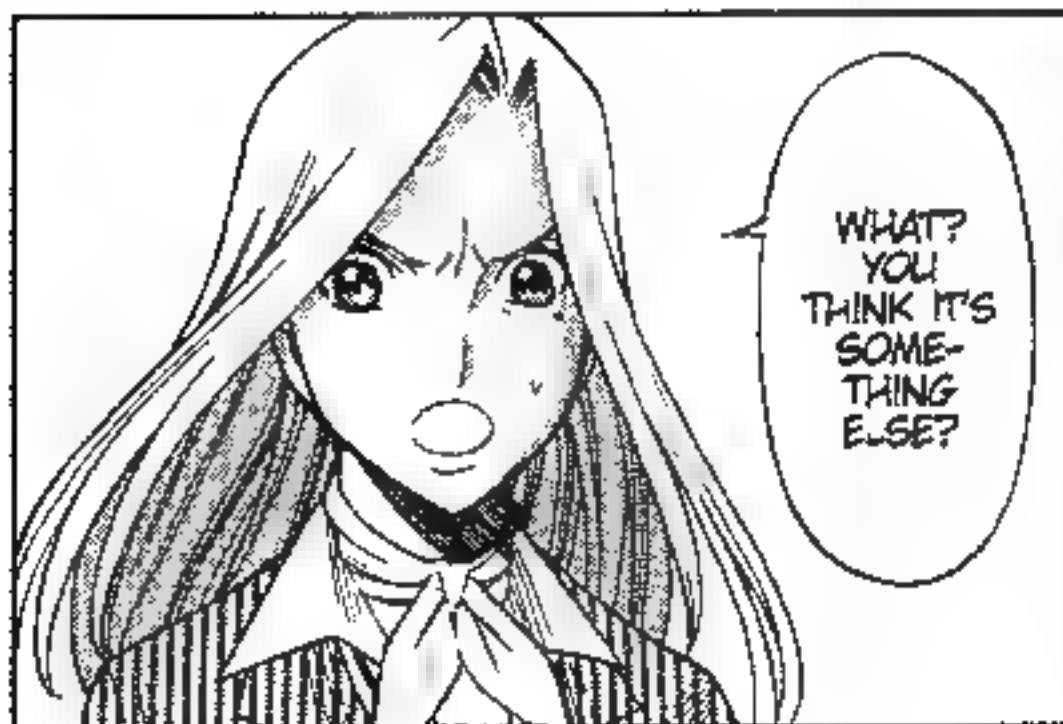


SO WE HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD IDEA THAT HE WAS ALREADY AGED WHEN HE WAS TURNED. IS THERE ANYTHING THAT POINTS TO A PARTICULAR TIME OR PLACE?



COULD IT POSSIBLY BE SOMEONE LIKE HYSTERICA, ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE THEIR FOLLOWING BEFORE PULLING SOME KIND OF TERRORIST ACT?

SO ANOTHER VAMPIRE TERRORIST GROUP FROM ONE OF THE OTHER CLANS IS IN TOKYO?!

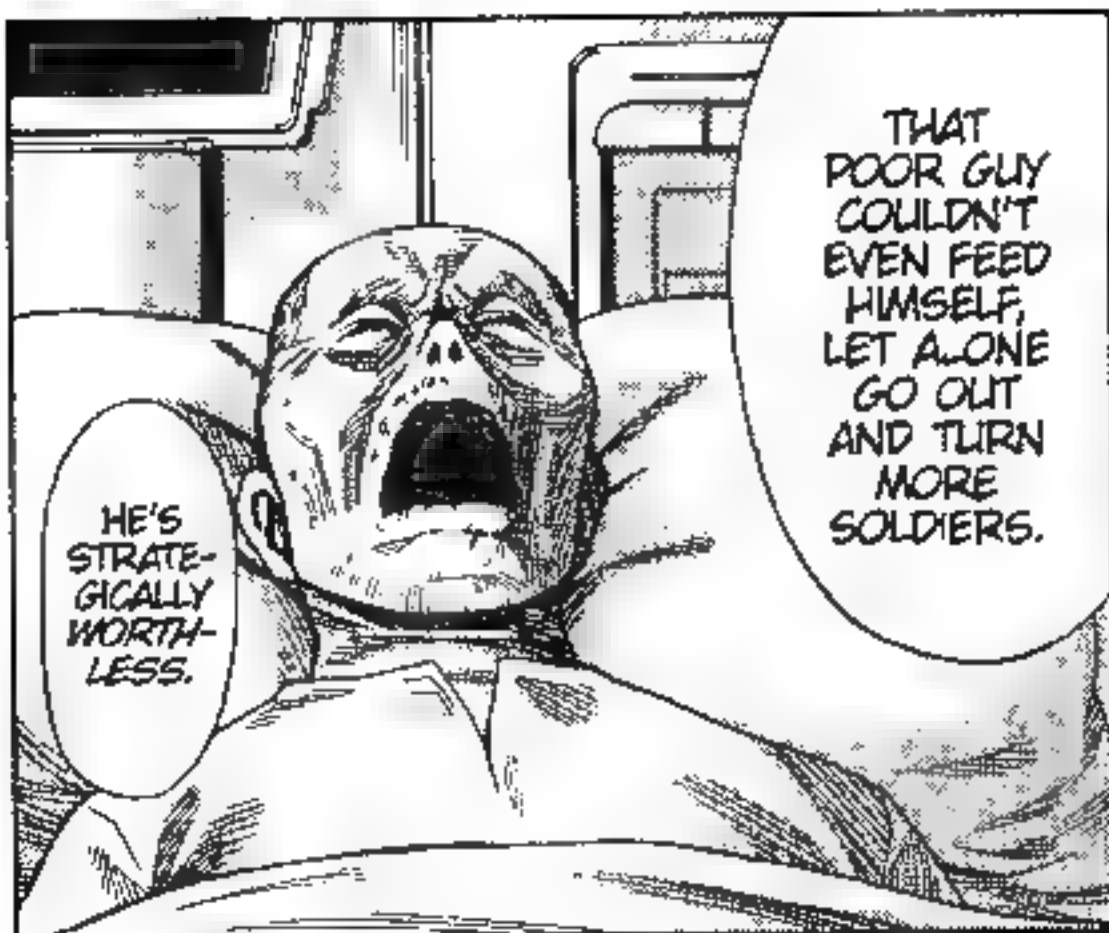


WHAT? YOU THINK IT'S SOMETHING ELSE?



I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT.

TO BE HONEST?



HE'S STRATEGICALLY WORTHLESS.

THAT POOR GUY COULDN'T EVEN FEED HIMSELF, LET ALONE GO OUT AND TURN MORE SOLDIERS.



AH...



GOTTA BE. I MEAN, LOOK AT HIM. IF SOME TERRORIST FACTION IS HERE, LOOKIN' TO CONSCRIPT SOME NEW RECRUITS, THEY'RE GONNA GO AFTER THE YOUNG AND ATHLETIC, NOT SOME TOOTHLESS CODGER.



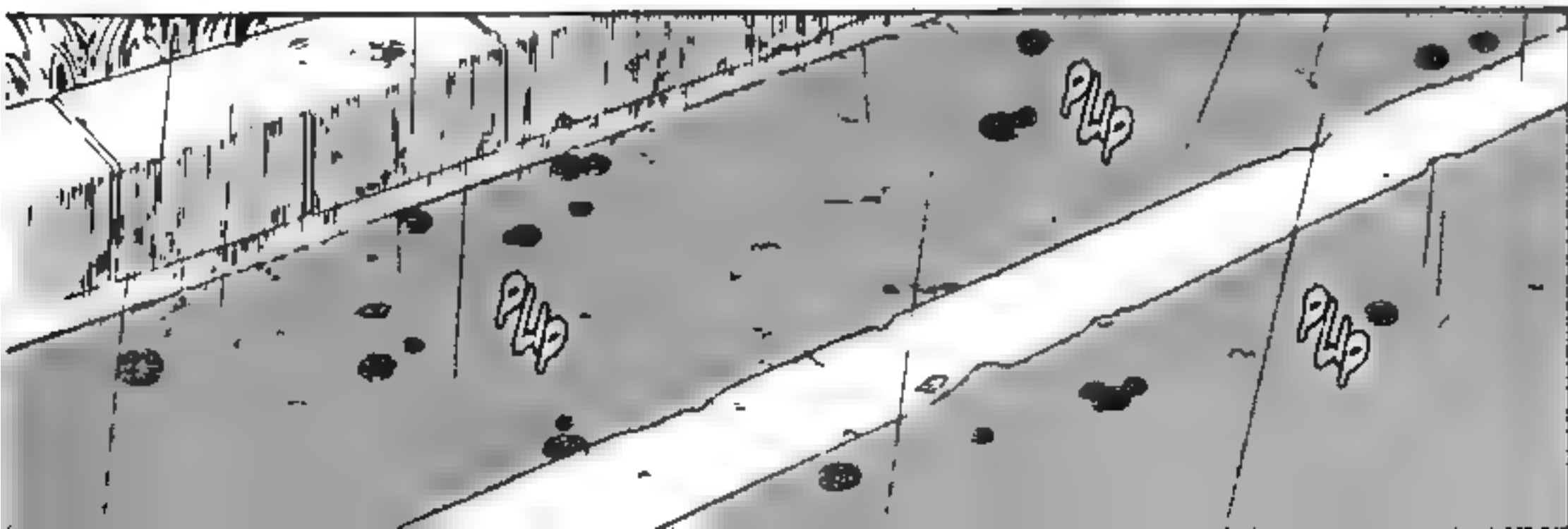
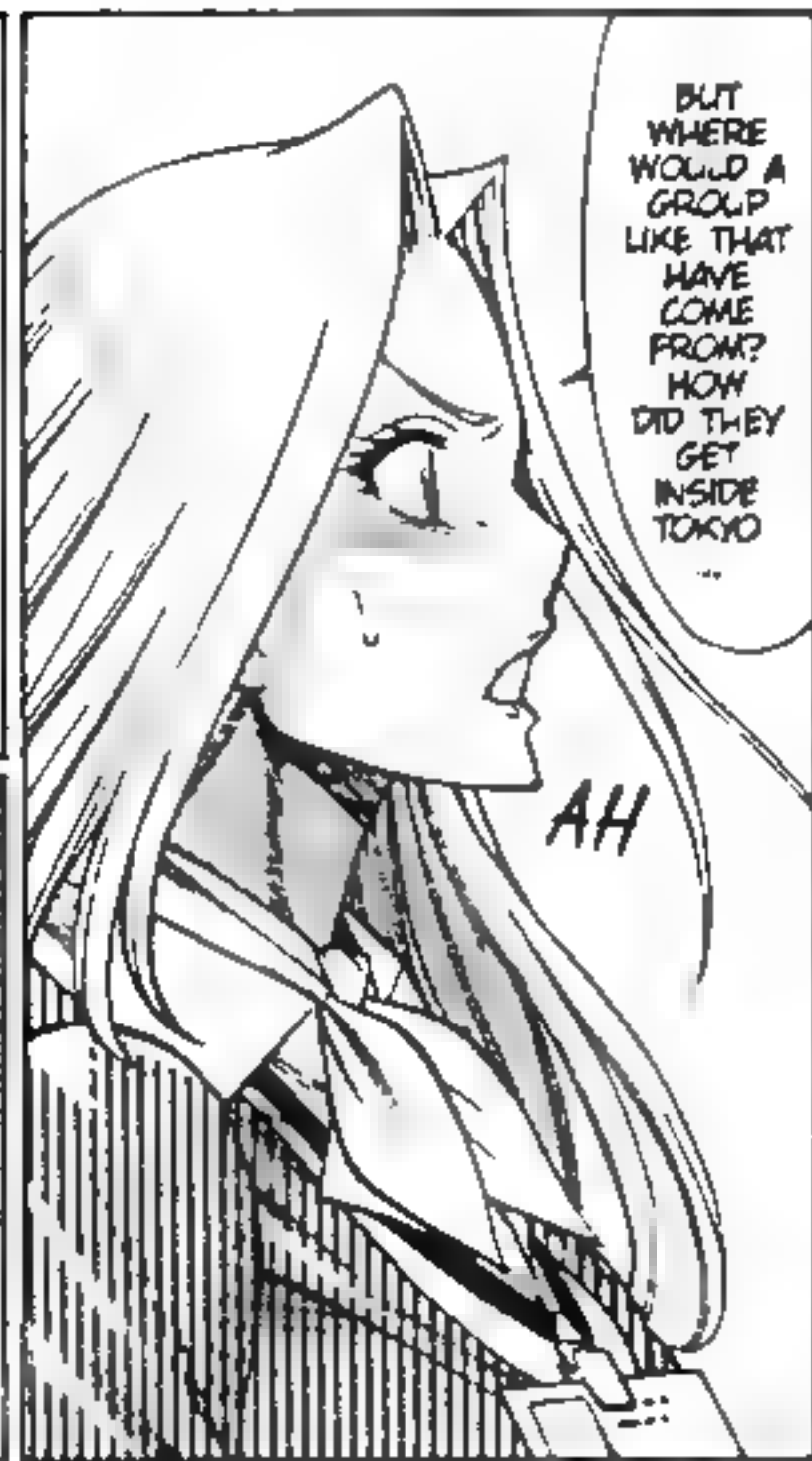
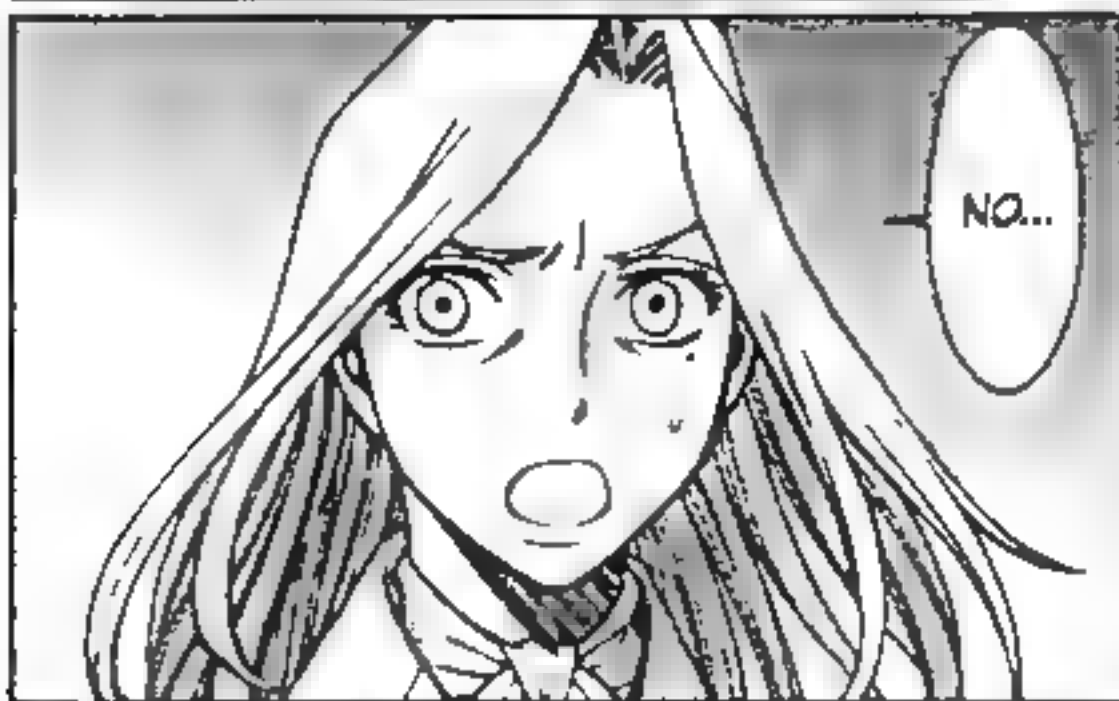
THEY AREN'T ORGANIZED, AND THEY DON'T HAVE ANY OBJECTIVE OUTSIDE OF SIMPLE SURVIVAL. THEY HIT WHAT THEY WANT, WHEN THEY WANT IT.

TRUTH BE TOLD, I REALLY WISH IT WAS A TERRORIST GROUP WE WERE DEALING WITH. THEY'D BE A HELLVA LOT LESS OF A PAIN IN THE ASS THAN WHAT IS HIDING OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE.



THEN WHO ATTACKED HIM?!

PROBABLY SOME GROUP OF PLAIN OLD, REGULAR VAMPIRES, OUT LOOKING FOR AN EASY MARK...







WHERE'D
YOU TWO
GET OFF
TO?



HEY.

TWITCH



LEAVE
OFF,
MAN.

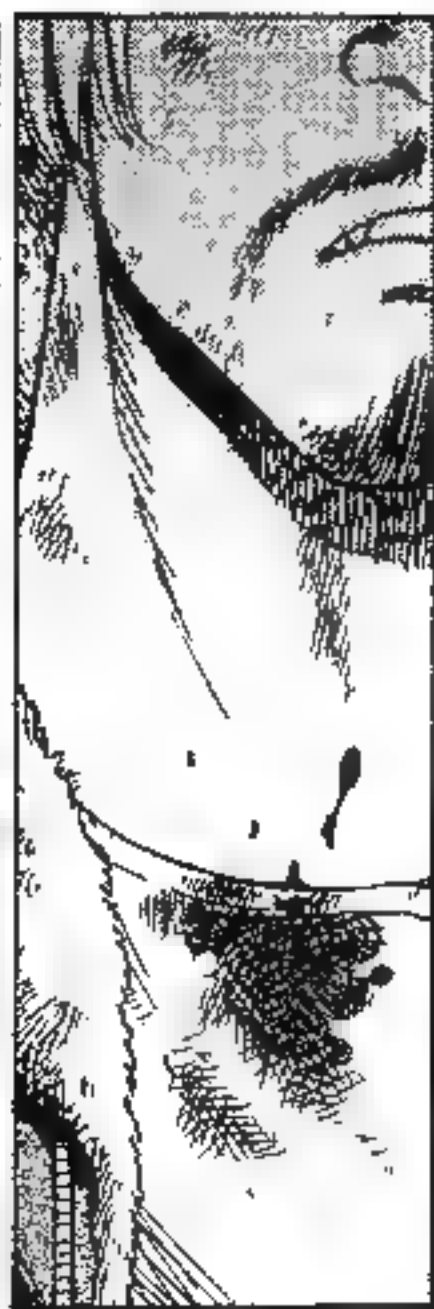
NO-
WHERE
...



YOU
DIDN'T!
TELL
ME
YOU
DIDN'T!!

GYA!

HEY!
THAT'S
BLOOD
ON
YOUR
SHIRT!!





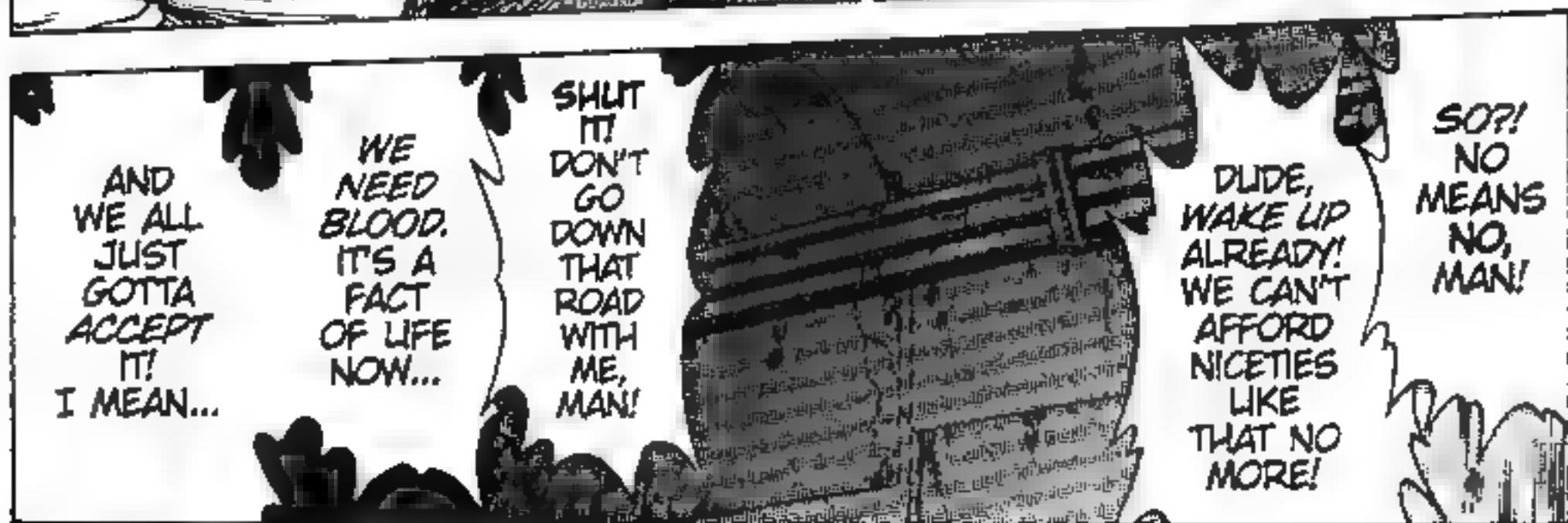
YOU
GOTTA
KNOW
WHAT
I'M
TALKIN'
ABOUT,
RIGHT?!

I CAN'T
HELP IT,
MAN!
I GET
THIRSTY!
DAMN
THIRSTY
!!



HOW
MANY
TIMES
DO WE
GOTTA
TELL
YOU
TO
QUIT
IT?!

YOU DID!
YOU WENT
OUT AND
ATTACKED
SOME
HELPLESS
PERSON!!



AND
WE ALL
JUST
GOTTA
ACCEPT
IT!
I MEAN...

WE
NEED
BLOOD.
IT'S A
FACT
OF LIFE
NOW...

SHUT
IT!
DON'T
GO
DOWN
THAT
ROAD
WITH
ME,
MAN!

DUDE,
WAKE UP
ALREADY!
WE CAN'T
AFFORD
NICETIES
LIKE
THAT NO
MORE!

SO?!
NO
MEANS
NO,
MAN!



ARE
YOU TWO
ARGUING
AGAIN?



WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



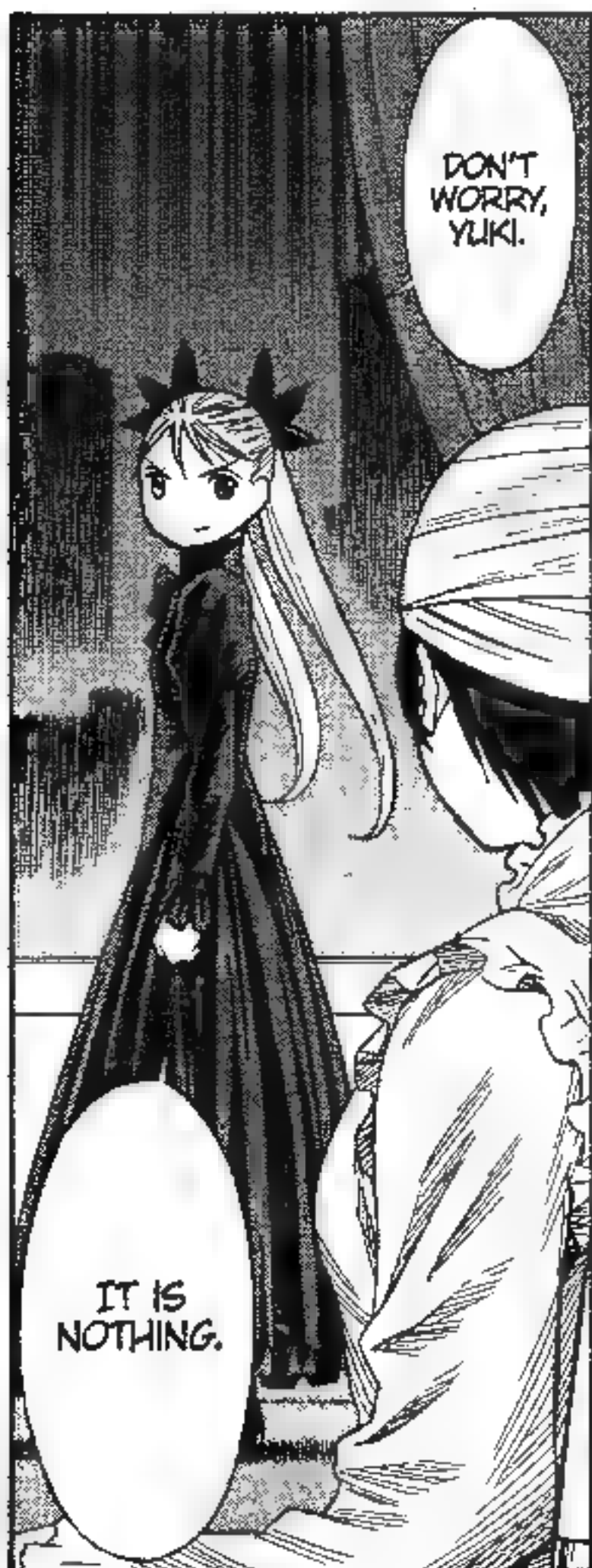
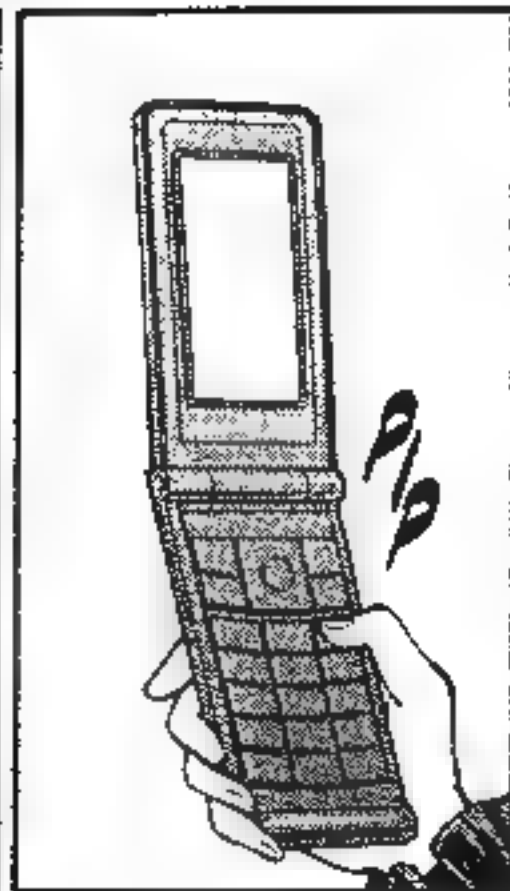
WE'RE
ALL
VAM-
PIRES
NOW!!

GR

GR









NOTHING
AT ALL.



Chapter 57: Red Doubt



SO..



EXACTLY.

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT THE GIRL I SAW ON THE TV IS SOME KIND OF FAKE...

WHILE SITTING RIGHT HERE IN MY KITCHEN IS THE TRUE, HONEST-TO-GOD QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRES.

I MUST ASSUME THAT AS OF THE MOMENT I ESCAPED FROM THE LABORATORY, ANY AND ALL TELEPHONE AND CELL PHONE COMMUNICATIONS LEAVING THIS COUNTRY ARE BEING MONITORED FOR PRECISELY SUCH A CALL.

IT IS NOT THAT SIMPLE.

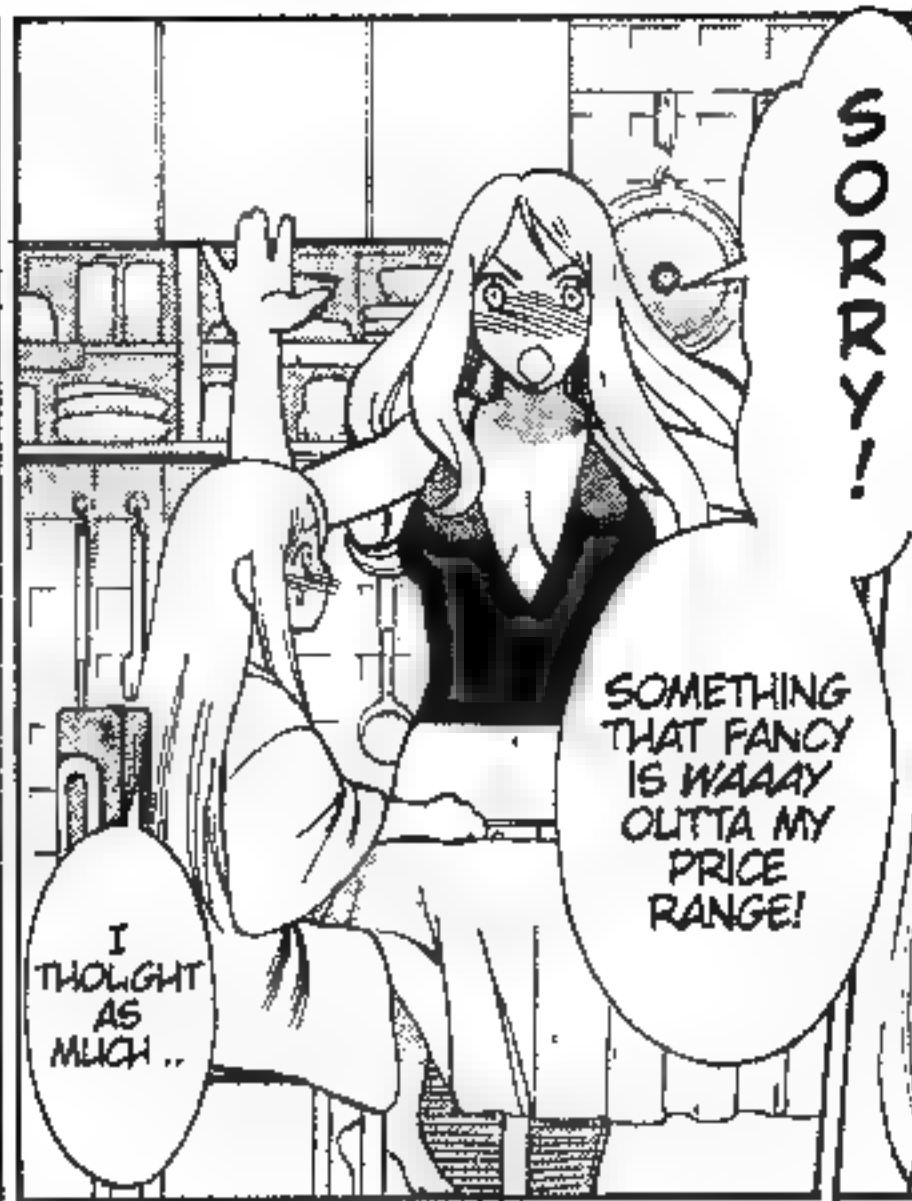
I'LL LET YOU USE MY PHONE. GO AND GIVE YOUR PEOPLE OR WHATEVER A CALL, AND TELL 'EM THAT'S AN EVIL TWIN THEY'RE TAKIN' ORDERS FROM!

THEN WHAT'RE YOU JUST SITTING AROUND FOR?! ISN'T THIS, LIKE, A HUGE, GLOBALLY IMPORTANT PROBLEM?!



HERE,
PRIN-
CESS.

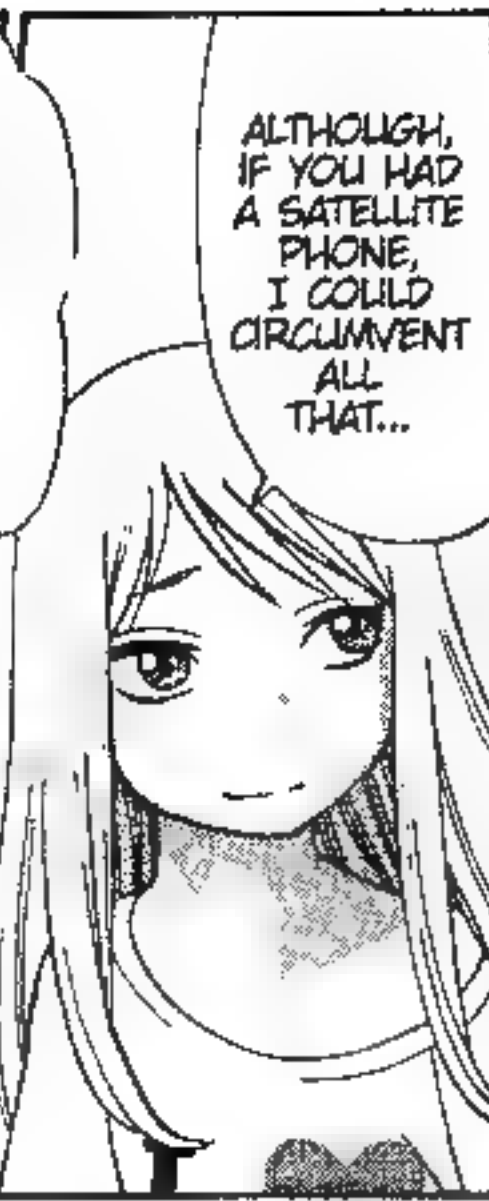
AAH!
THANK
YOU,
SUSY.
THAT'S
SWEET OF
YOU.



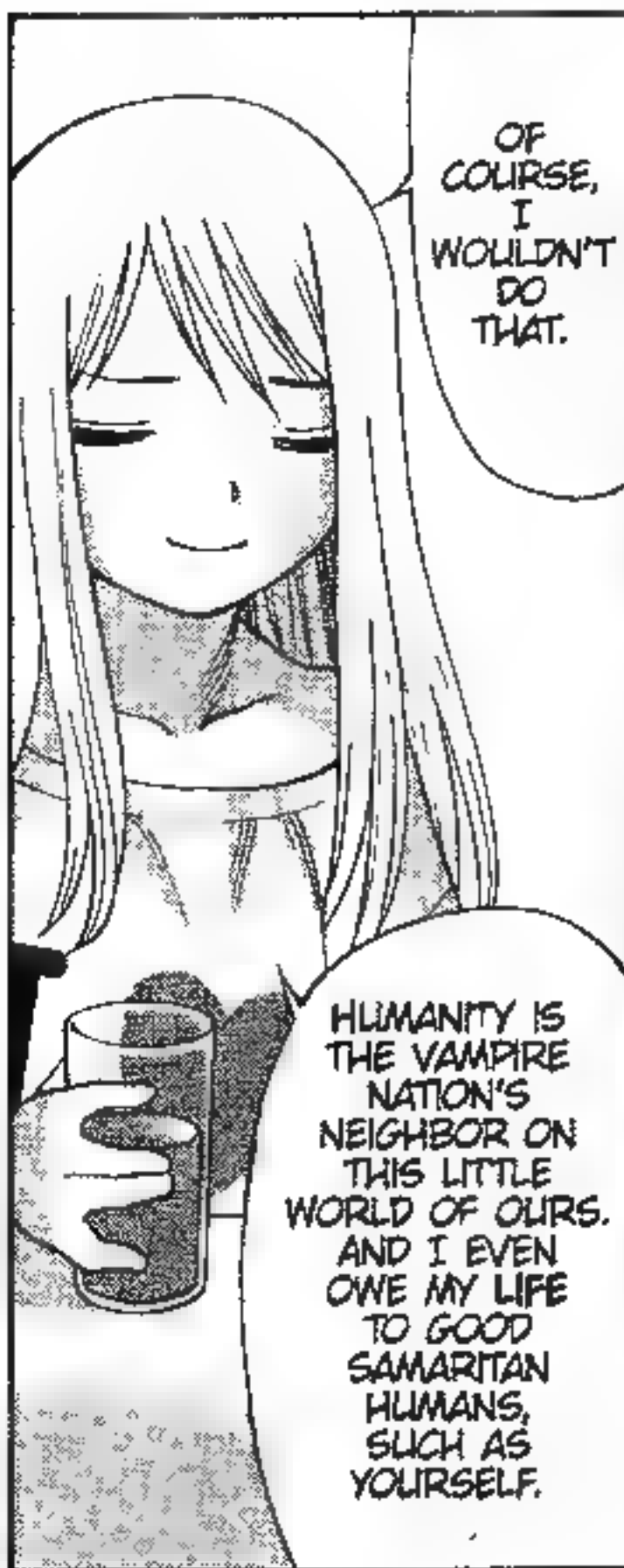
SORRY!!

SOMETHING
THAT FANCY
IS WAAAY
OUTTA MY
PRICE
RANGE!

I
THOUGHT
AS
MUCH ..

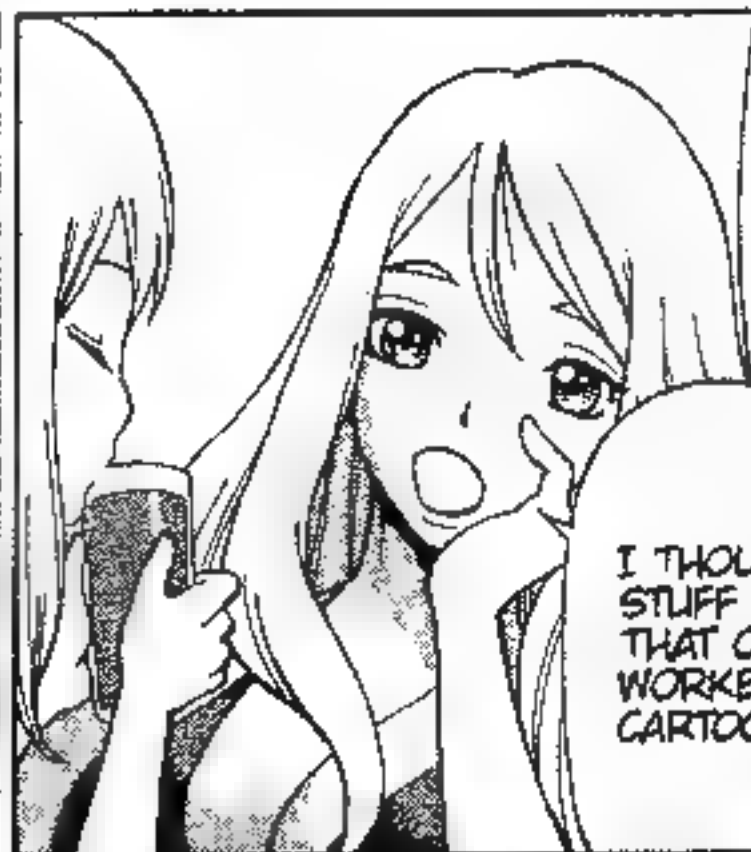


ALTHOUGH,
IF YOU HAD
A SATELLITE
PHONE,
I COULD
CIRCUMVENT
ALL
THAT...



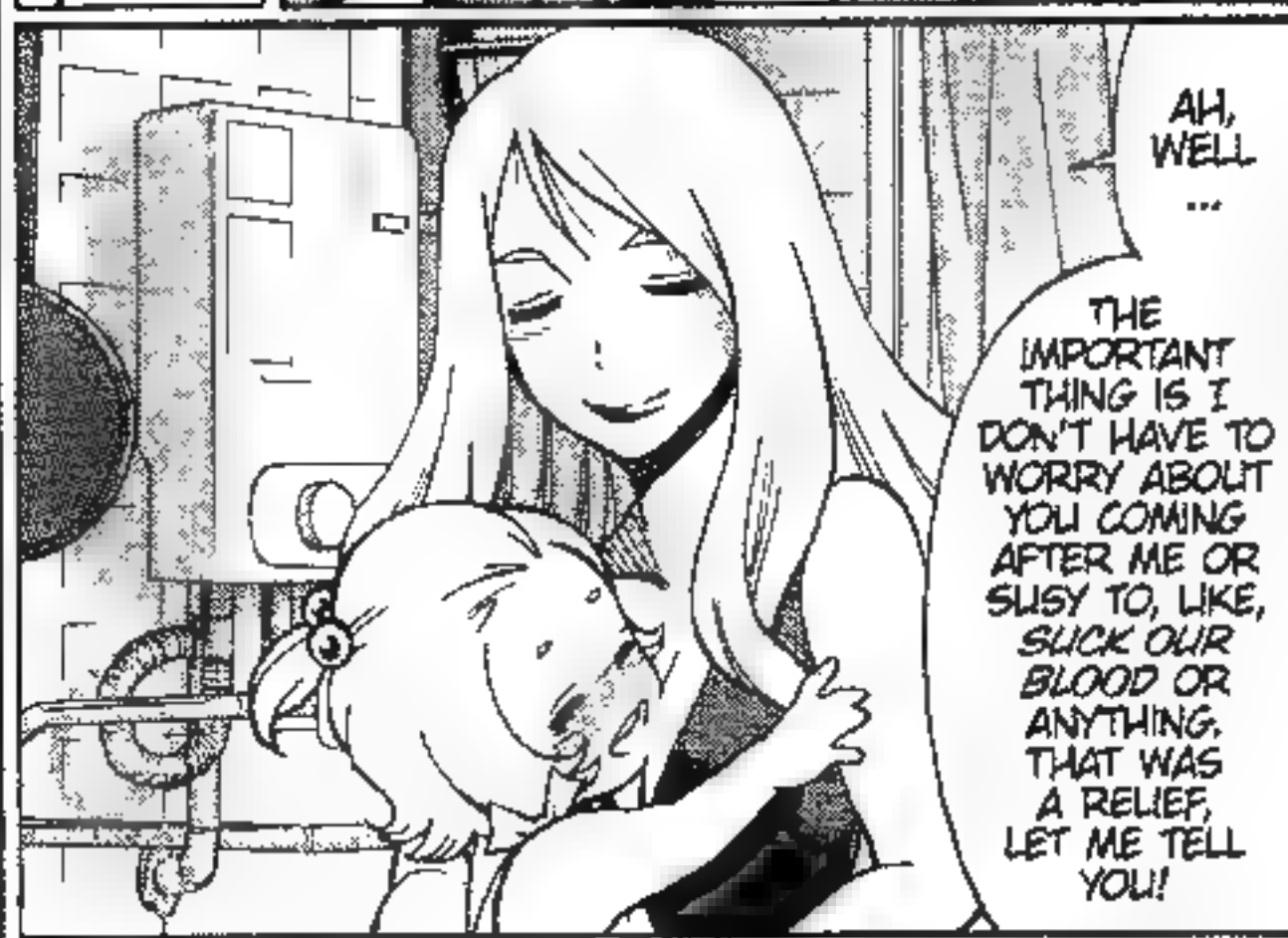
OF
COURSE,
I
WOULDN'T
DO
THAT.

HUMANITY IS
THE VAMPIRE
NATION'S
NEIGHBOR ON
THIS LITTLE
WORLD OF OURS.
AND I EVEN
OWE MY LIFE
TO GOOD
SAMARITAN
HUMANS,
SUCH AS
YOURSELF.



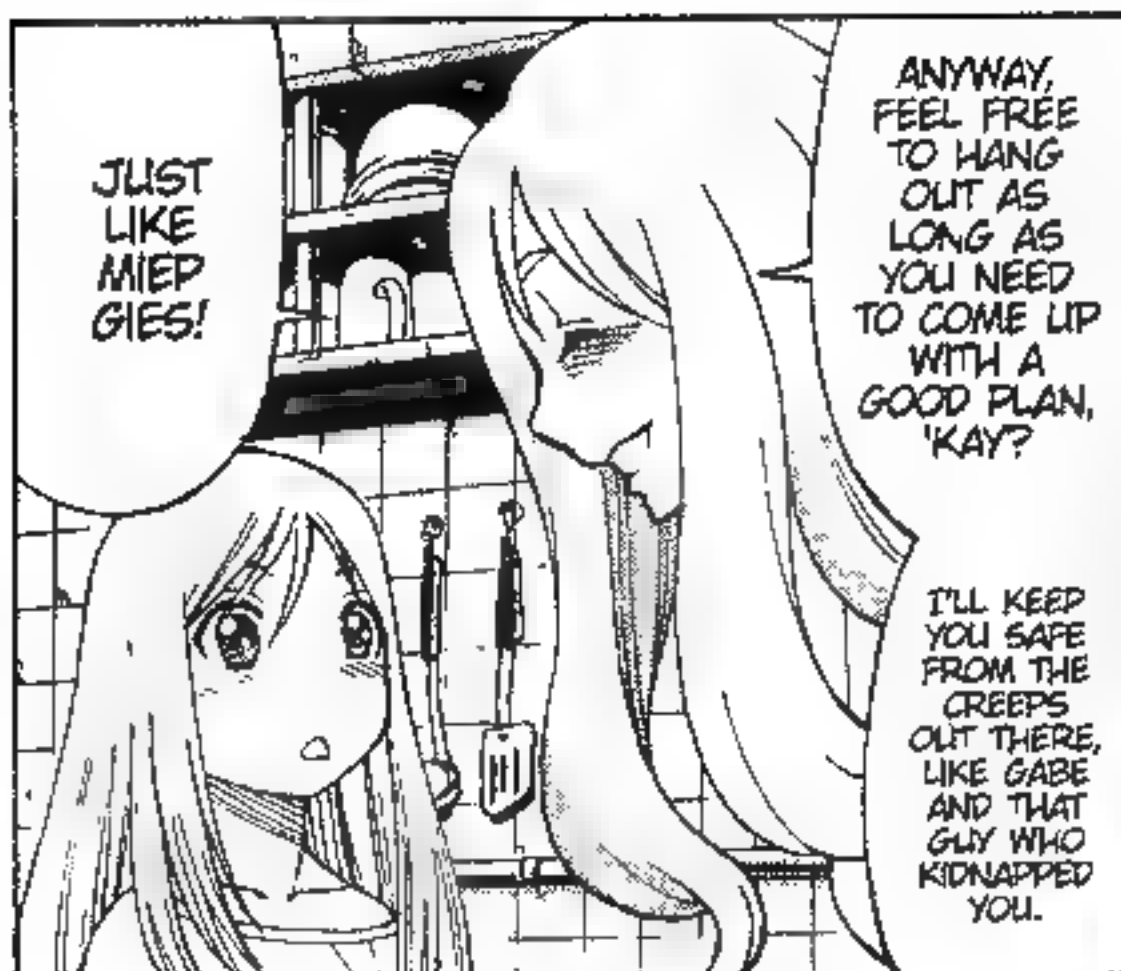
MAN,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
TOMATO
JUICE
REALLY
DOES
WORK AS
A BLOOD
SUBSTITUTE
FOR YOU!

I THOUGHT
STUFF LIKE
THAT ONLY
WORKED IN
CARTOONS.



AH,
WELL
...

THE
IMPORTANT
THING IS I
DON'T HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT
YOU COMING
AFTER ME OR
SUSY TO, LIKE,
SUCK OUR
BLOOD OR
ANYTHING.
THAT WAS
A RELIEF,
LET ME TELL
YOU!



JUST LIKE MIEP GIES!

ANYWAY, FEEL FREE TO HANG OUT AS LONG AS YOU NEED TO COME UP WITH A GOOD PLAN, 'KAY?

I'LL KEEP YOU SAFE FROM THE CREEPS OUT THERE, LIKE GABE AND THAT GUY WHO KIDNAPPED YOU.



EHEH.

OH, COME ON. IT WASN'T ALL THAT BIG OF A DEAL!



OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED TO HIDE ANNE FRANK FROM THE NAZIS, SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE THE WAR.

MIEP GIES...

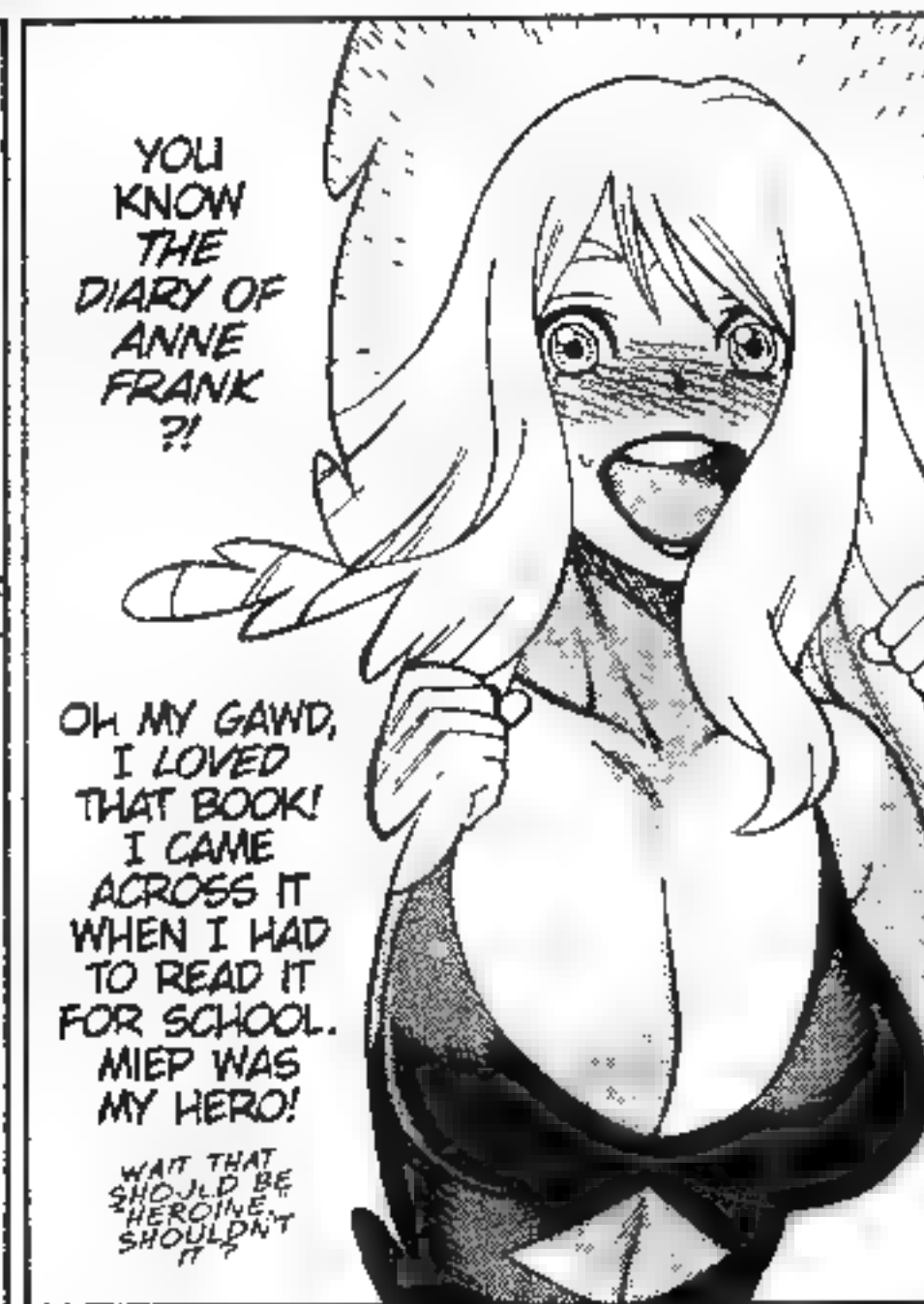


OH, YOU'VE READ IT, RIGHT?

YES, I HAVE.

IMAGINE... ME, DOING SOMETHING AS INCREDIBLE AS WHAT MIEP DID!

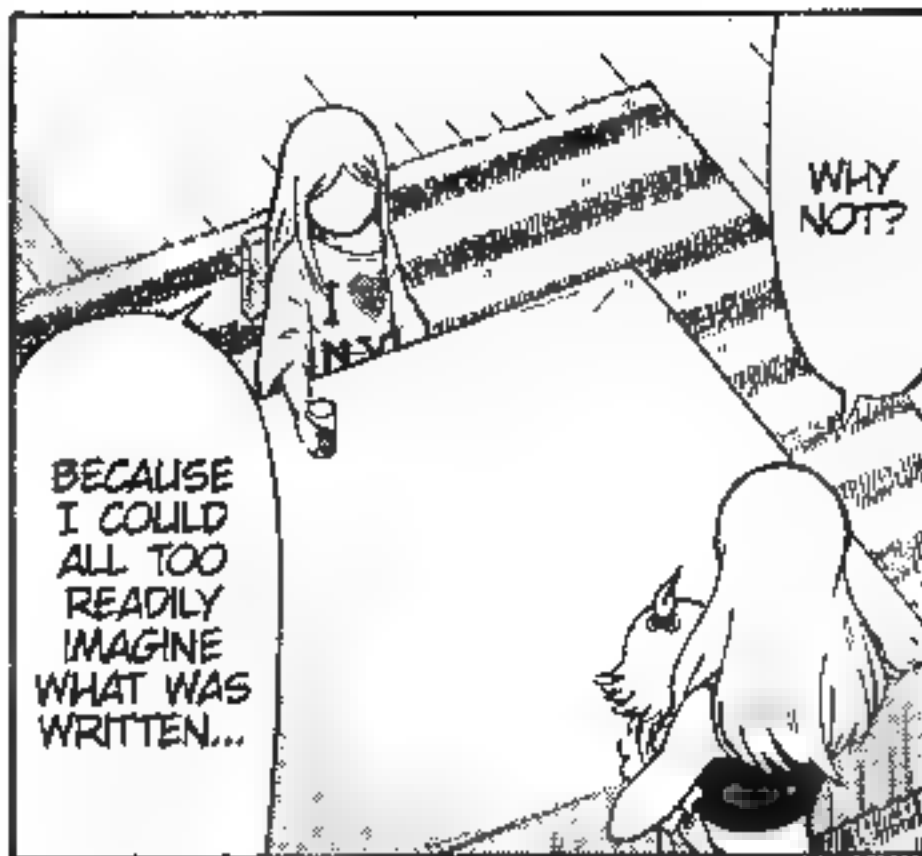
THAT WOULD BE SO AWE-SOME!!



YOU KNOW THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK ?!

OH MY GAWD, I LOVED THAT BOOK! I CAME ACROSS IT WHEN I HAD TO READ IT FOR SCHOOL. MIEP WAS MY HERO!

WAIT THAT SHOULD BE HEROINE, SHOULDNT IT?



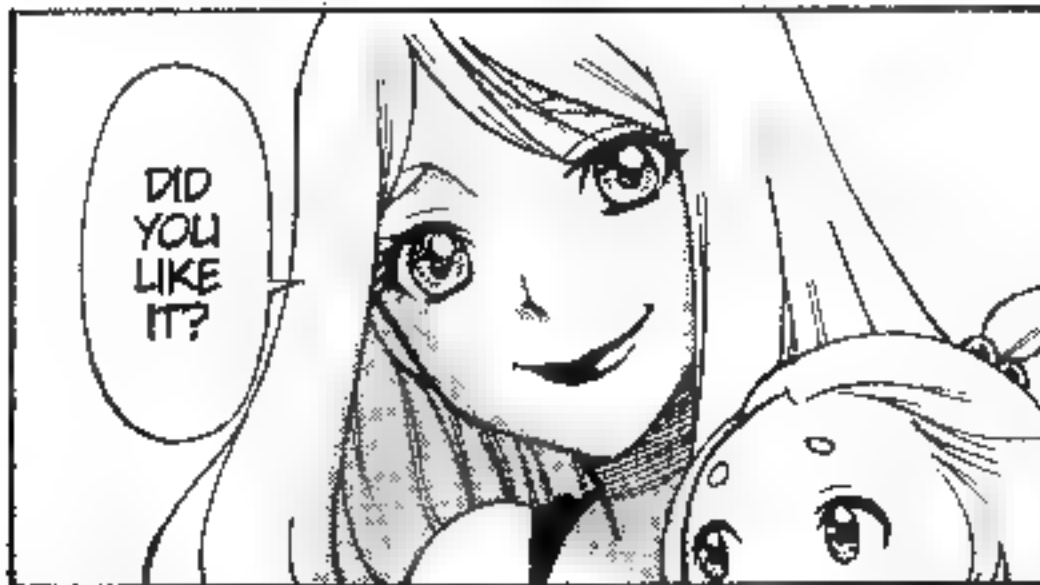
BECAUSE
I COULD
ALL TOO
READILY
IMAGINE
WHAT WAS
WRITTEN...

WHY
NOT?

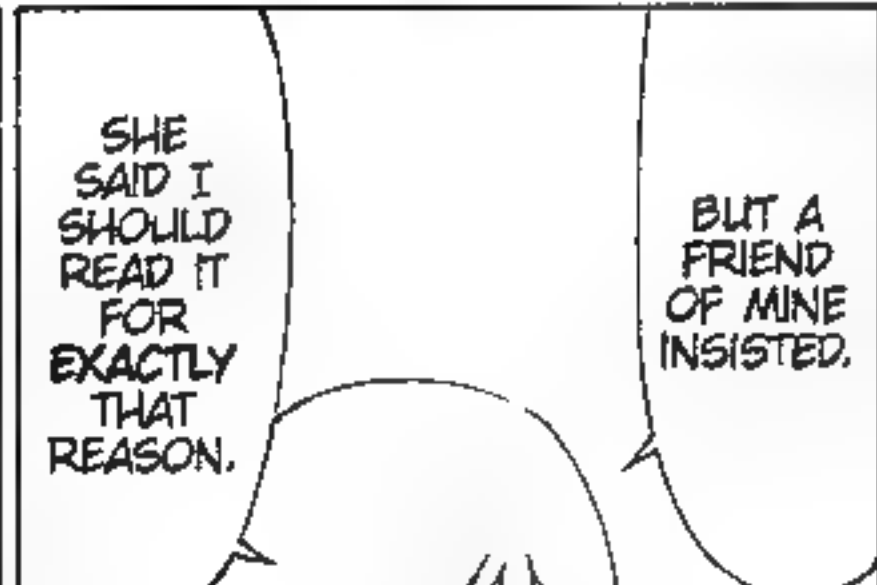


I...
DID NOT
FEEL
LIKE
READING
IT.

THOUGH,
I AM
EMBARRASSED
TO ADMIT
THAT I ONLY
DID SO VERY
RECENTLY.



DID
YOU
LIKE
IT?



SHE
SAID I
SHOULD
READ IT
FOR
EXACTLY
THAT
REASON.

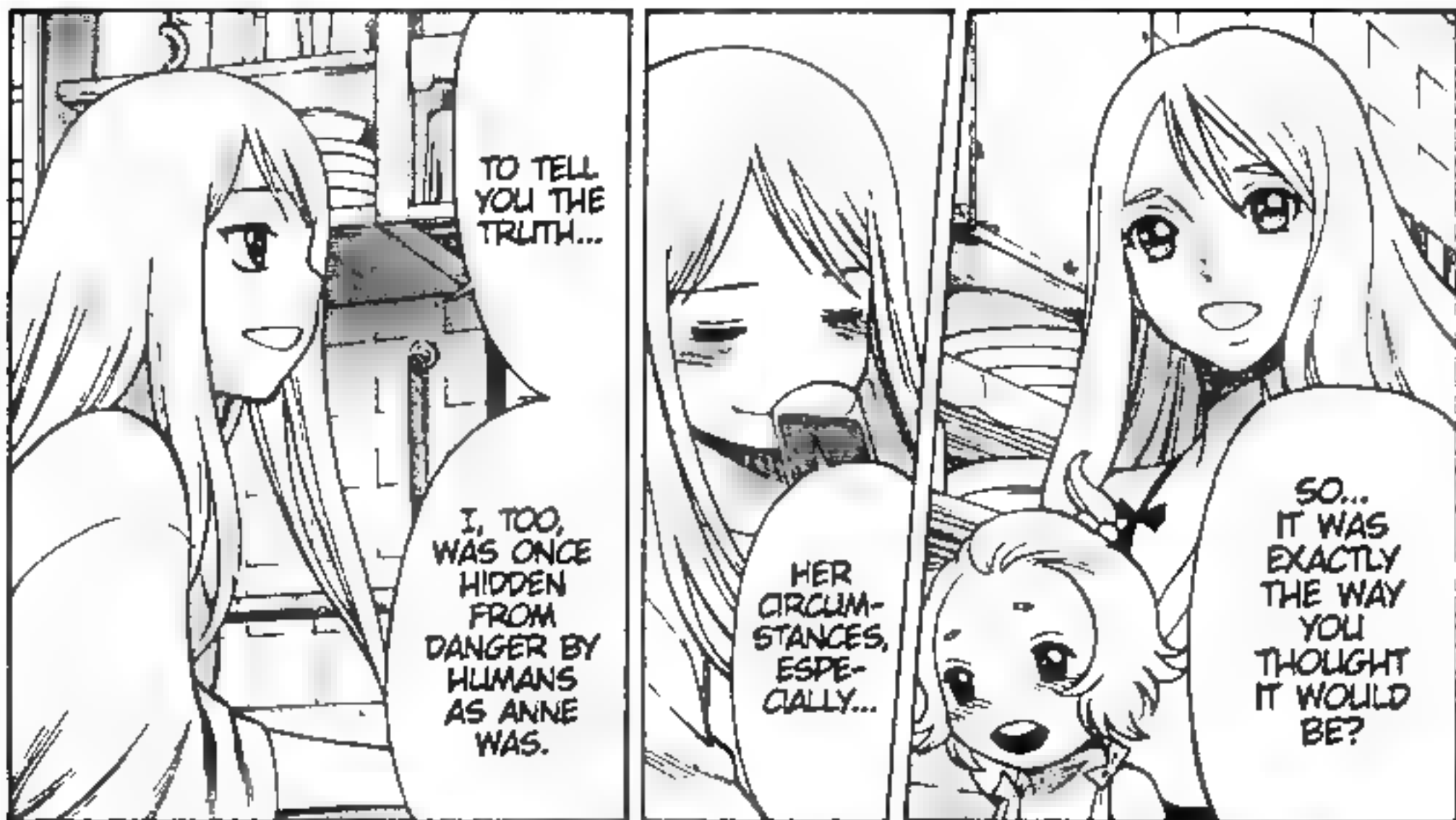
BUT A
FRIEND
OF MINE
INSISTED.



IT...
REACHED
INTO MY
HEART
AND
TWISTED.

I KNEW
WELL--
PAINFULLY
WELL--
EXACTLY
WHAT ANNE
HAD GONE
THROUGH.





TO TELL
YOU THE
TRUTH...

I, TOO,
WAS ONCE
HIDDEN
FROM
DANGER BY
HUMANS
AS ANNE
WAS.

HER
CIRCUM-
STANCES,
ESPE-
CIALLY...

SO...
IT WAS
EXACTLY
THE WAY
YOU
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE?



HA
HA
HA!

I WAS
CONVINCED
THERE
COULD BE
NO ONE
MORE
LONELY
THAN I.

I
LOOKED
MUCH
AS I DO
NOW, BUT
INSIDE,
I WAS
STILL A
CHILD.

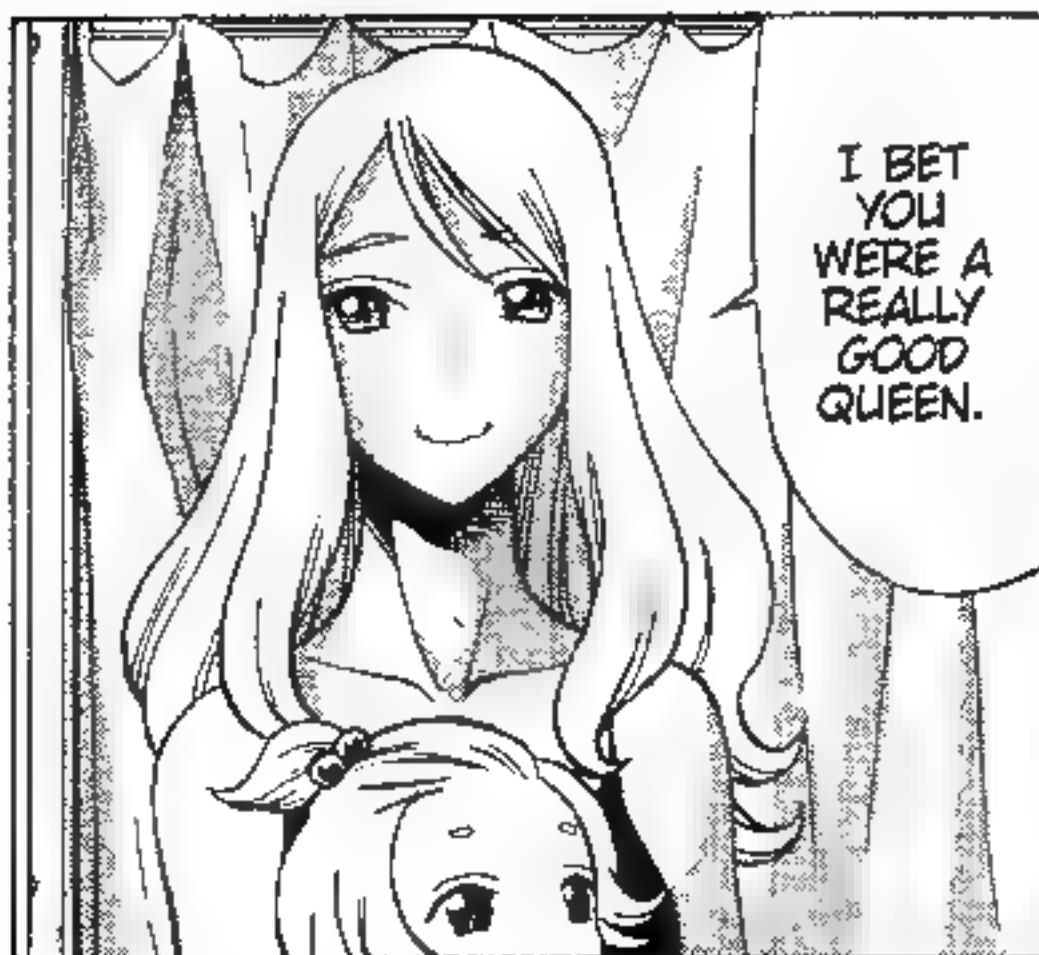
BACK THEN,
I WAS
PURSUED BY
ROZENMANN,
AS I AM NOW,
ENTIRELY CUT
OFF FROM MY
RETAINERS
AND ANYTHING
FAMILIAR...



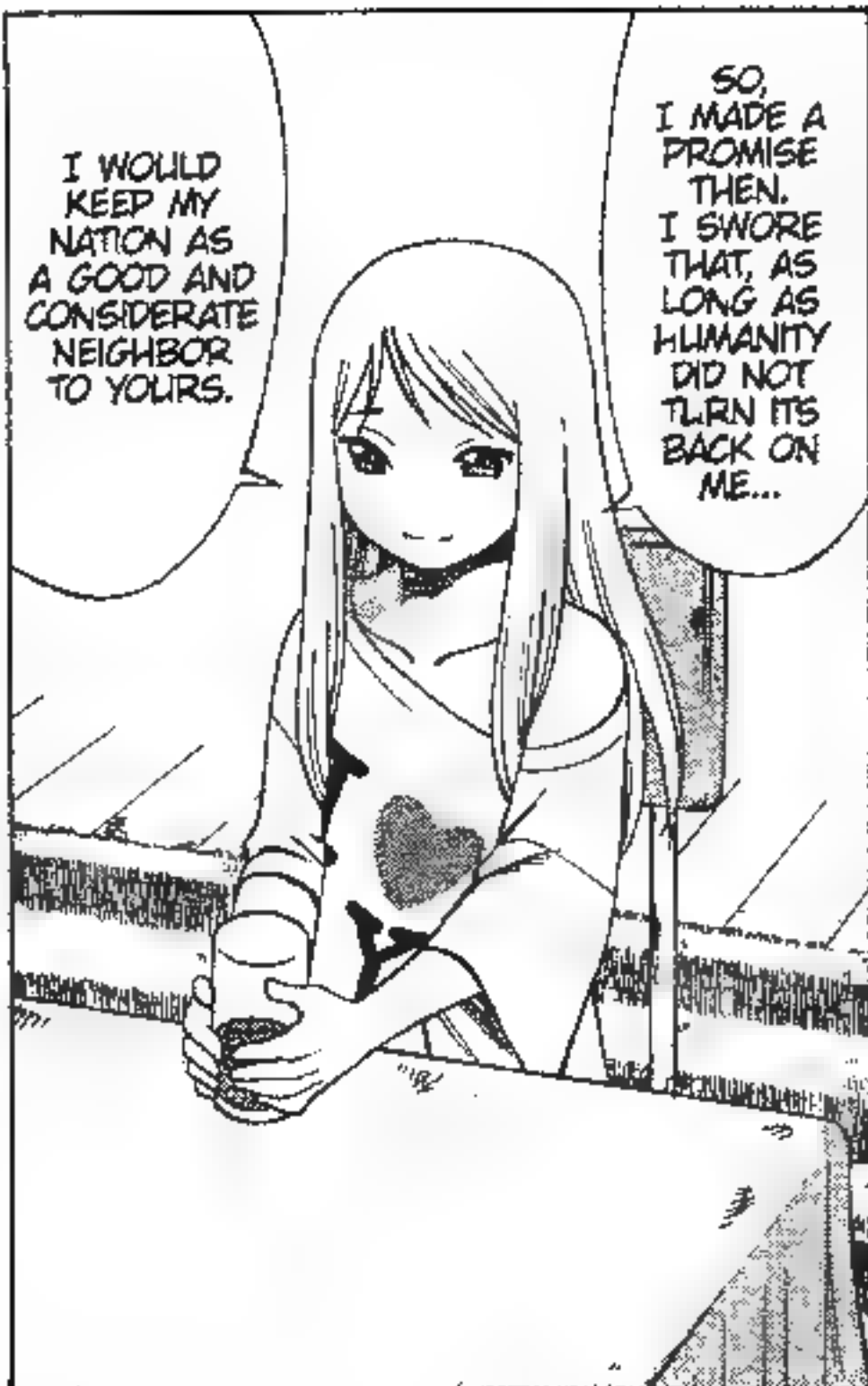
I CAN
REMEM-
BER THEIR
NAMES,
THEIR
FACES,
THEIR
VOICES...

EVEN
TO
THIS
VERY
DAY...

THE ONES
WHO TOOK
ME IN AND
PROTECTED
ME WERE,
LIKE YOU,
KIND AND
GOOD-HEARTED
HUMANS.

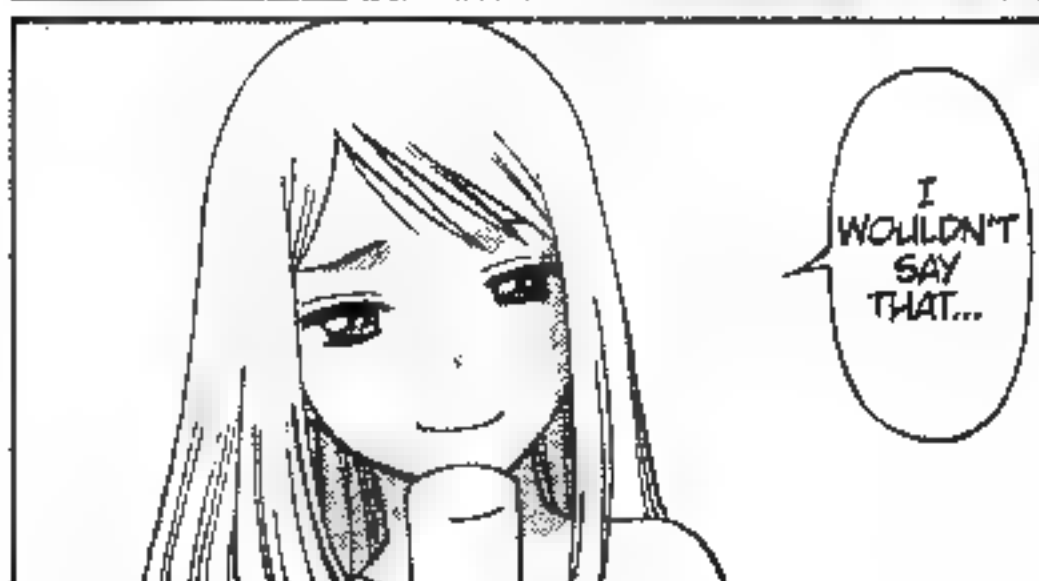


I BET
YOU
WERE A
REALLY
GOOD
QUEEN.

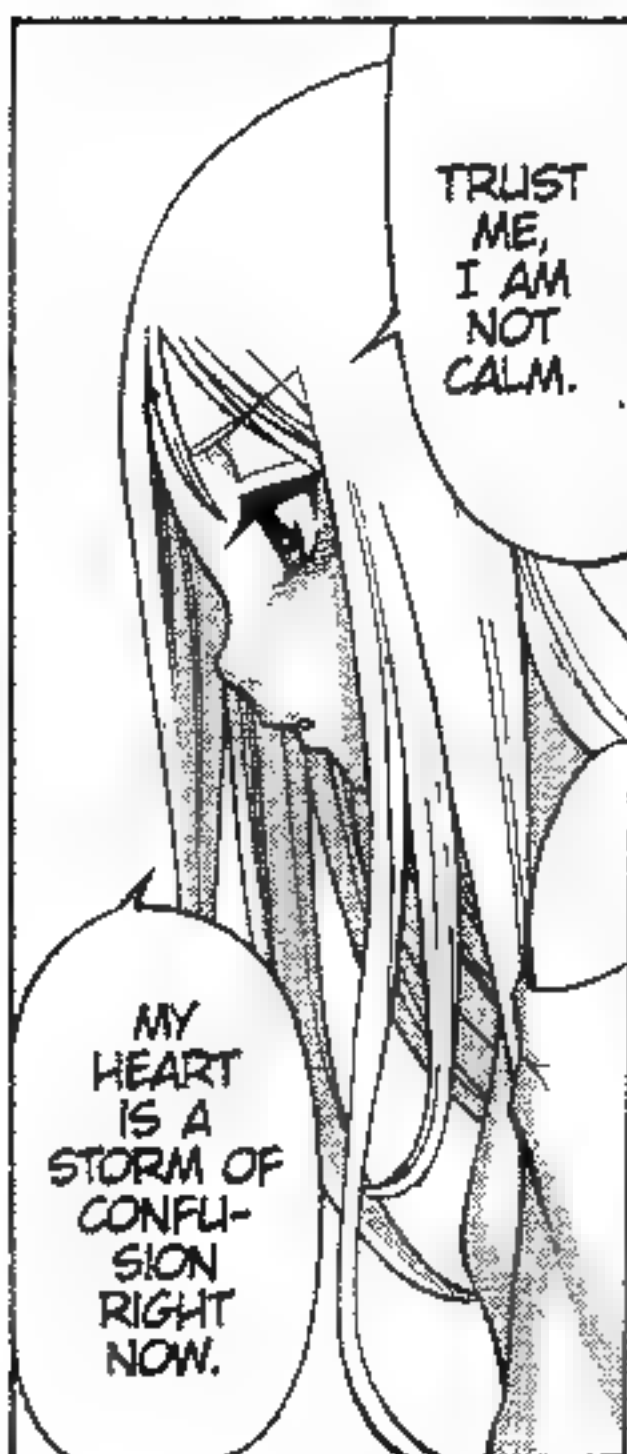


I WOULD
KEEP MY
NATION AS
A GOOD AND
CONSIDERATE
NEIGHBOR
TO YOURS.

SO,
I MADE A
PROMISE
THEN.
I SWORE
THAT, AS
LONG AS
HUMANITY
DID NOT
TURN ITS
BACK ON
ME...

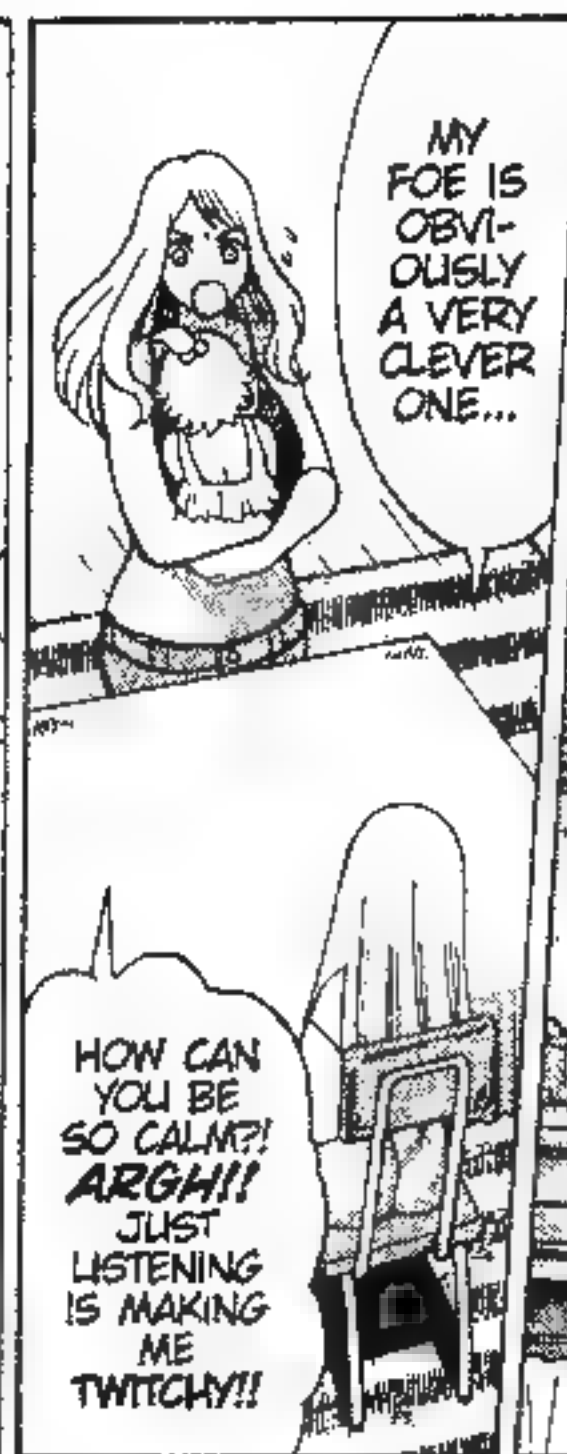


I
WOULDN'T
SAY
THAT...



TRUST
ME,
I AM
NOT
CALM.

MY
HEART
IS A
STORM OF
CONFLI-
SION
RIGHT
NOW.




MY
FOE IS
OBI-
OUSLY
A VERY
CLEVER
ONE...

HOW CAN
YOU BE
SO CALM?!
ARGH!!
JUST
LISTENING
IS MAKING
ME
TWITCHY!!



Y'KNOW,
THE
MORE
I HEAR,
THE
MORE
PISSED
OFF I'M
GETTING

I MEAN,
SERIOUSLY!!
HAVEN'T YOUR
FRIENDS AND
SERVANTS
AND STUFF
REALIZED
THAT'S NOT
REALLY YOU
THERE?!



DON'T
HOW
EVERONE
PREVIOUS
TO ME IS
STANDING
BY HER
SIDE

NOT EVEN
ONCE
DREAMING
THAT SHE
IS ME.

THEY
ARE
SPEAKING
TO HER
THE
WORDS
THEY
MEAN
FOR
ME.

GIVING
TO HER
THE SAME
LOYALTY,
AND...
AND LOVE
THAT THEY
MEAN FOR
ME...



IT HURTS
...



IF ONLY
I HAD
WINGS
STRONG
ENOUGH
TO CARRY
ME
ACROSS
THE
OCEAN...



THEN I
WOULD
FLY RIGHT
TO THEM
THIS VERY
MINUTE.



I
WOULD
FLY
RIGHT
TO
YOU...



IT
HURTS
SO
MUCH
...!



AKIRA...





YOU PUT
A STOP
TO THAT
ONE.

YEAH...
HE WENT
AFTER THOSE
REFUGEES
OF HIS THAT
WE TOOK IN,
RIGHT?

IVANOVIC
CAUSED A
BIG ENOUGH
RUCKUS
THAT LI
MANAGED TO
SLIP IN AND
ATTACK A
MAINLAND
FACILITY.



WHAT
?!

ONE OF THE
REFUGEES
SLIPPED AWAY
WHILE I WAS
DEALING
WITH THE
SOLDIERS.

MOST
OF IT,
ANYWAY.
THERE
WAS A
GIRL WHO
ESCAPED.



THE
LOT OF
THEM
VAN-
ISHED.

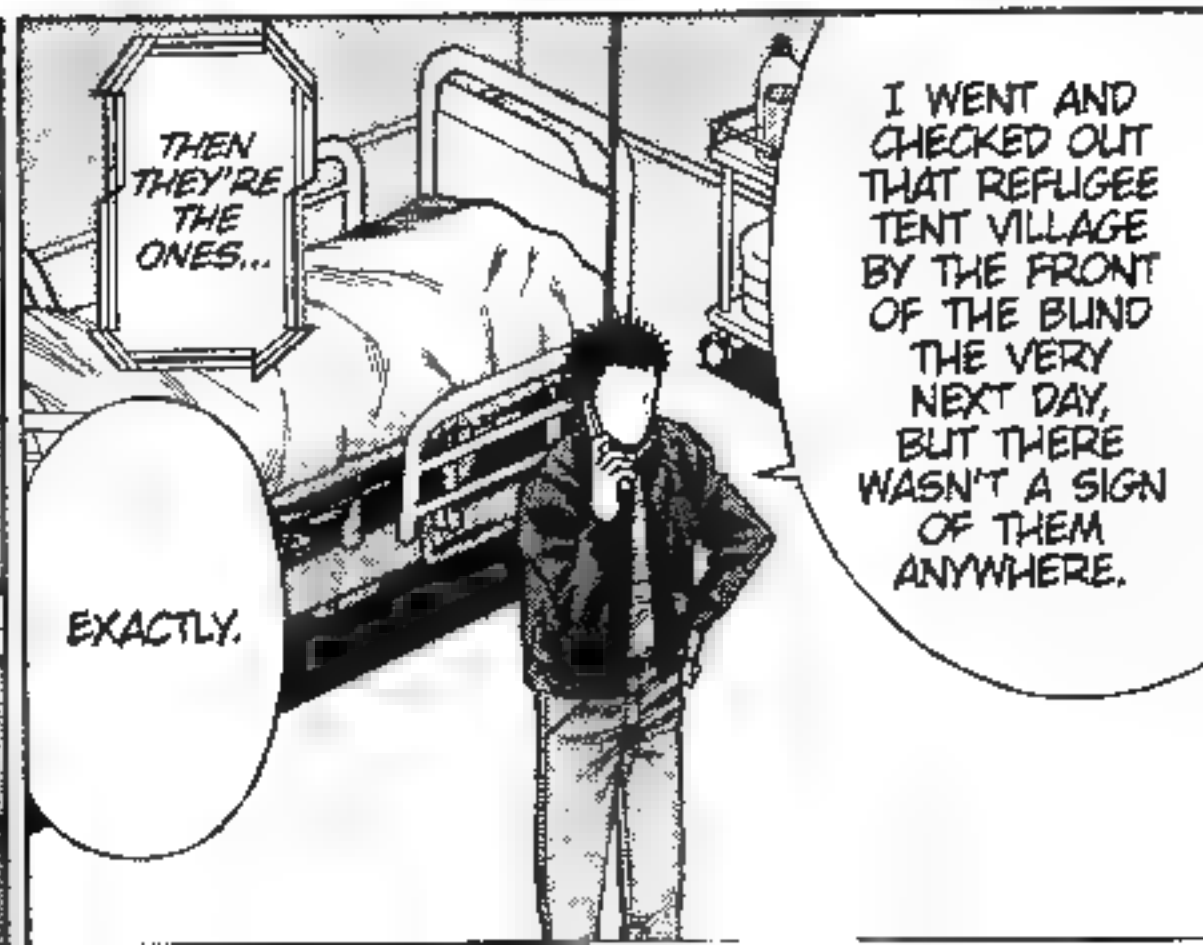
!!

ONE GIRL
BY HERSELF
AIN'T A BIG
THREAT.
PROBLEM IS,
SHE WENT
WITH A
GROUP OF
WHAT LOOKED
LIKE EVERYDAY
HUMANS.



HOW
COME YOU
DIDN'T
TELL ME
ABOUT
THIS
EARLIER
?!

THIS
IS A
MAJOR
PROB-
LEM!



THEN
THEY'RE
THE
ONES...

EXACTLY.

I WENT AND
CHECKED OUT
THAT REFUGEE
TENT VILLAGE
BY THE FRONT
OF THE BLIND
THE VERY
NEXT DAY,
BUT THERE
WASN'T A SIGN
OF THEM
ANYWHERE.

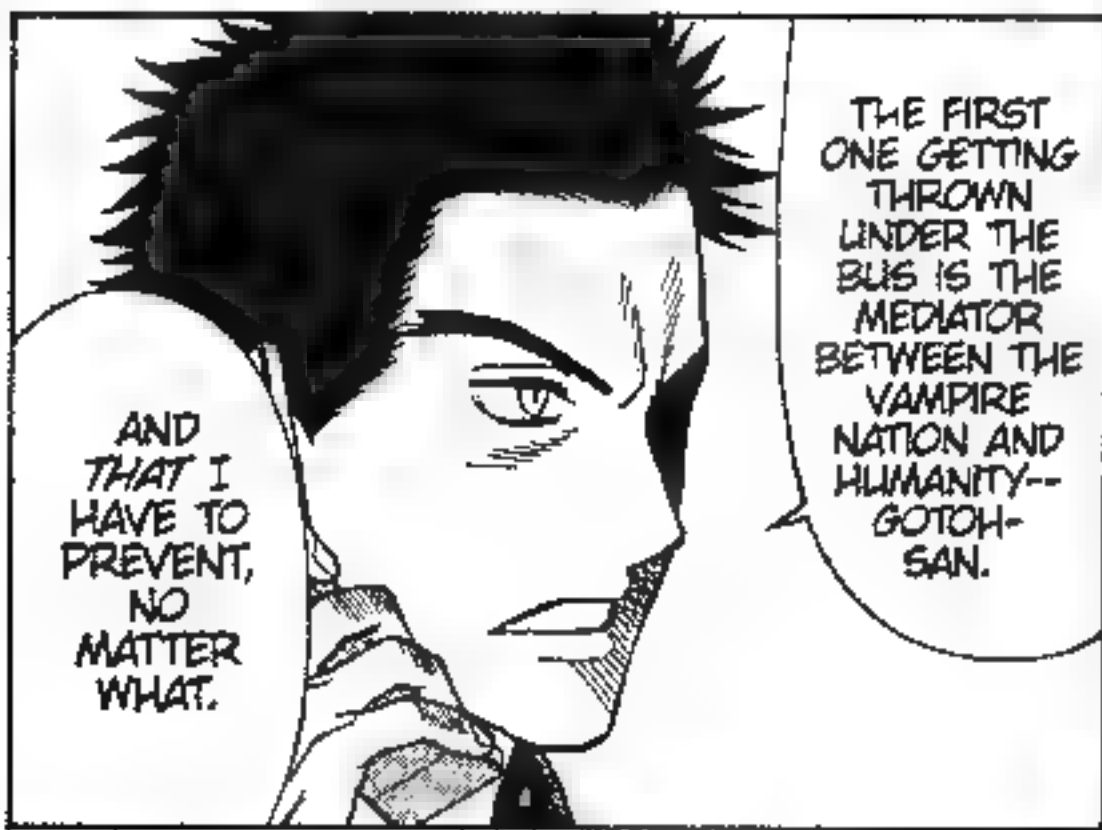


HELL NO, IT
AIN'T SMART.
BUT THINK
ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S GONNA
HAPPEN IF THE
WORST COMES
ABOUT, AND
NOBODY'S
TOLD ANYBODY
ANYTHING?

YOU
SURE
THAT'S
SMART
...?

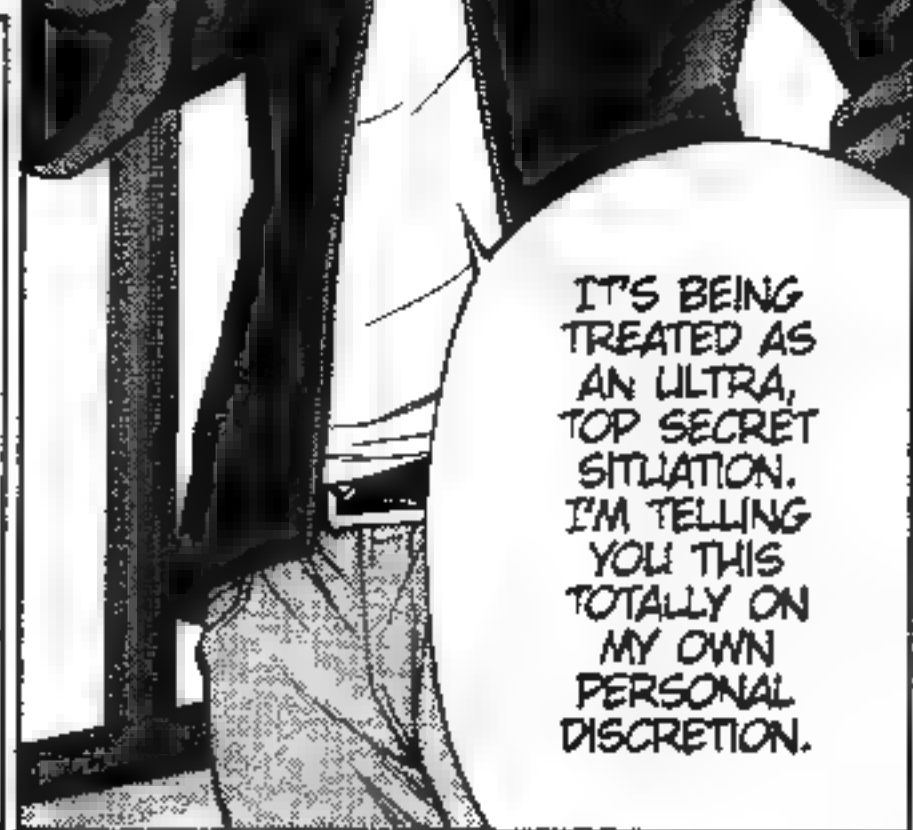


HEY,
DON'T BITE
MY HEAD
OFF. THE
HIGHER-
UPS PUT A
GAG ORDER
ON THIS
ONE RIGHT
DAMN
QUICK.



AND
THAT I
HAVE TO
PREVENT,
NO
MATTER
WHAT.

THE FIRST
ONE GETTING
THROWN
UNDER THE
BUS IS THE
MEDIATOR
BETWEEN THE
VAMPIRE
NATION AND
HUMANITY--
GOTOH-
SAN.



IT'S BEING
TREATED AS
AN ULTRA,
TOP SECRET
SITUATION.
I'M TELLING
YOU THIS
TOTALLY ON
MY OWN
PERSONAL
DISCRETION.



A MAN
WILL TAKE
ON HELL
ITSELF,
UNARMED
AND ALONE,
ALL FOR
THE SAKE
OF THE
WOMAN HE
LOVES.

HEY,
LISTEN AND
REMEMBER
THIS, MY
YOUNG
PADAWAN
...



SO, YOU'RE
MAKING
SURE THERE'S
BEEN OFFICIAL
CONTACT
BETWEEN THE
TWO OF US
ABOUT THE
PROBLEM
BEFORE
ANY CRISIS,
HUH...?

ISN'T
THAT A
LITTLE
CHEAP?

HOWEVER,
THE BOTH
OF THEM
ARE OFF
RUNNING IN
CIRCLES IN
RUSSIA.

OH,
TRUST ME.
IF YOUR DAD
OR VERA-SAN
WERE
ANYWHERE
AROUND,
I WOULD'VE
TOLD THEM
IMMEDIATELY.

YEAH,
YEAH,
WHAT-
EVER
...

ANYWAY,
WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
TELLING ME
THIS FOR?
AREN'T
THERE
OTHER
PEOPLE WHO
SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT
THIS FIRST?

CAN'T
REALLY GET
TO HER
MAJESTY,
EITHER,
'CAZ
ANYWHERE
SHE
GOES...

BUT
ANY-
WAY,
AKIRA
...

THAT
MAN'S
AS
CLEAR
AS
FOG...

I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT
HE'S
UP TO,
AND I
DON'T
LIKE IT.

DUKE
BORGIANI
IS THERE,
RIGHT IN
FRONT
OF HER.

I'LL LEAVE
IT ENTIRELY
UP TO YOU
ABOUT
WHEN, HOW,
AND TO WHO
YOU PASS
THIS INFO
ON TO.











SOME-
THING'S...
IN IT...
AAAAGH!

GOD,
IT
HURTS!



MY...
MY
HEAD...
IT
HURTS
...!



WHAT
THE
HELL IS
HAPPEN-
ING TO
ME?!

!



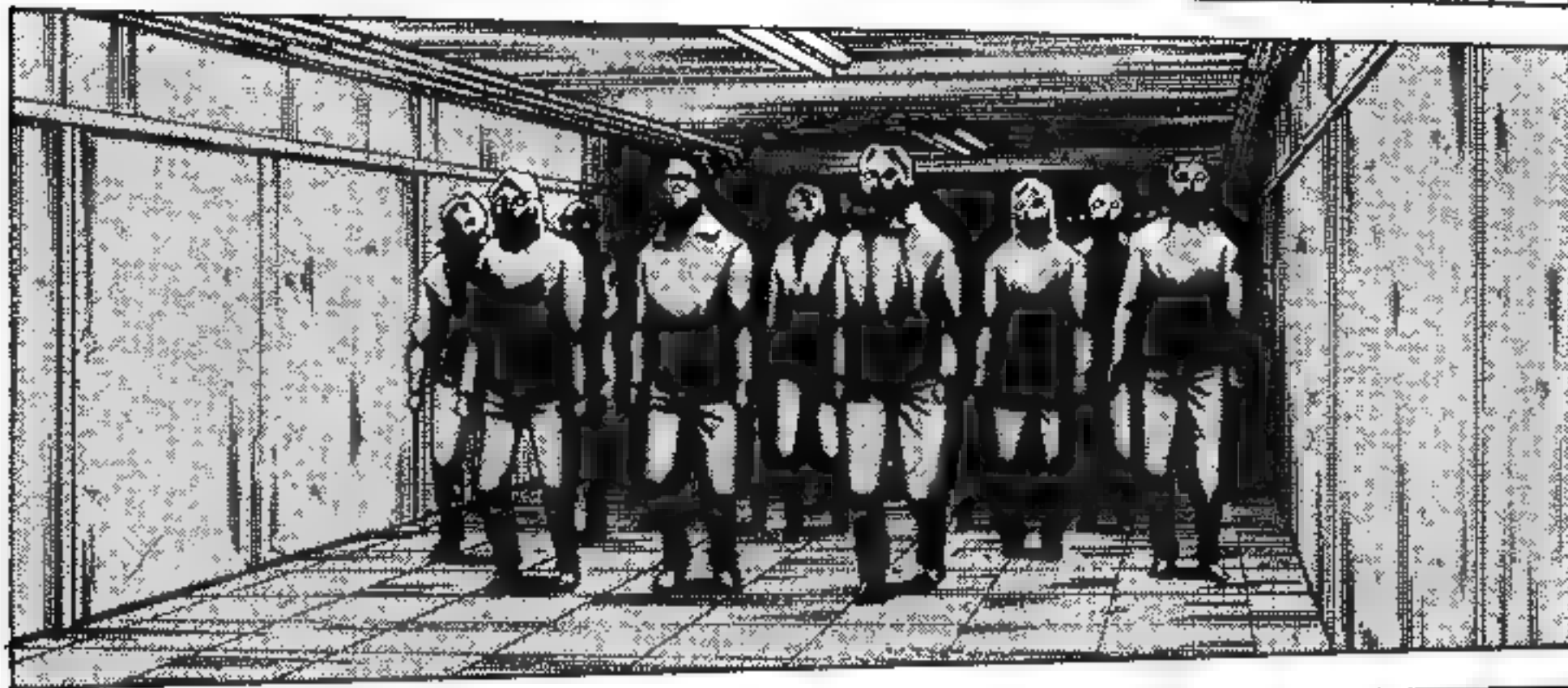
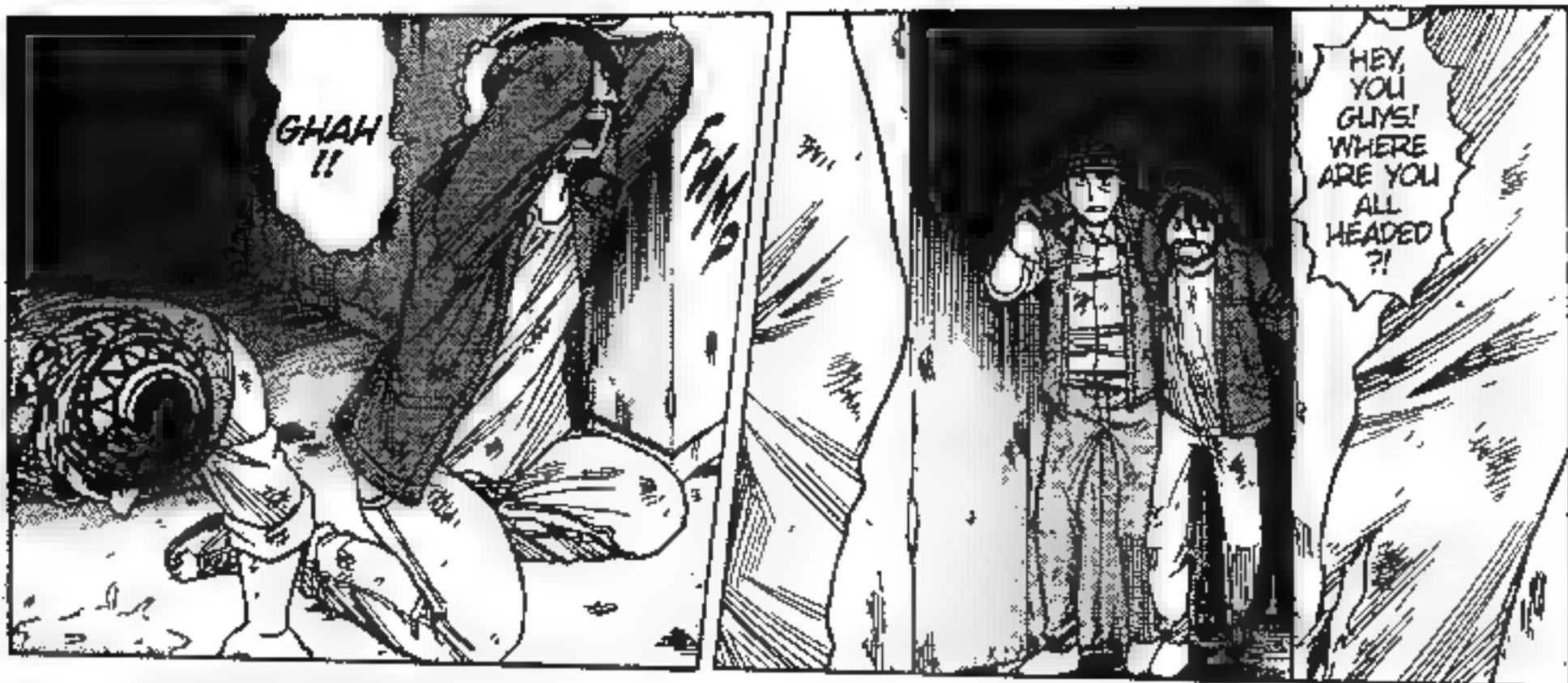
FOR
LORD
L...



FOR
OUR
LORD...



THIS
IS THE
SAME AS
WHAT
HAPPENED
IN OUR
VILLAGE
...!



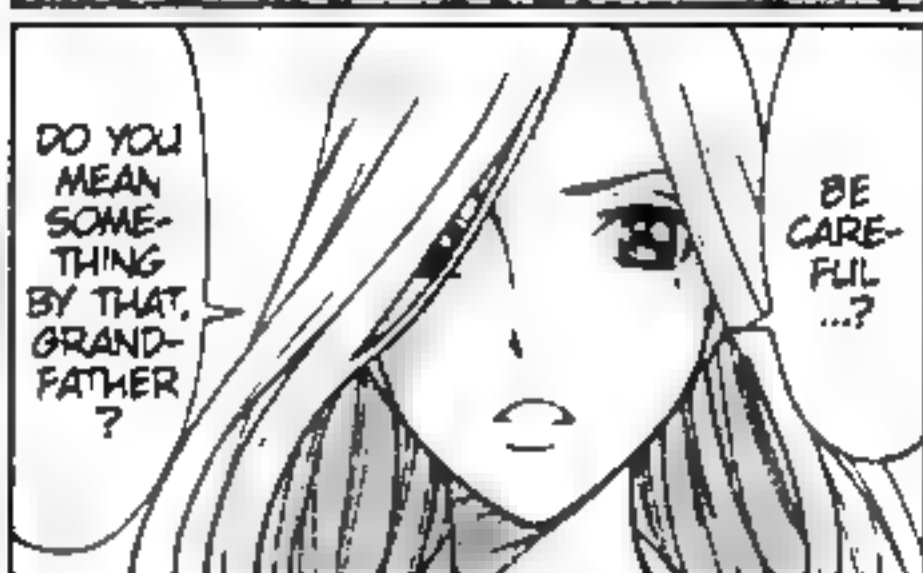
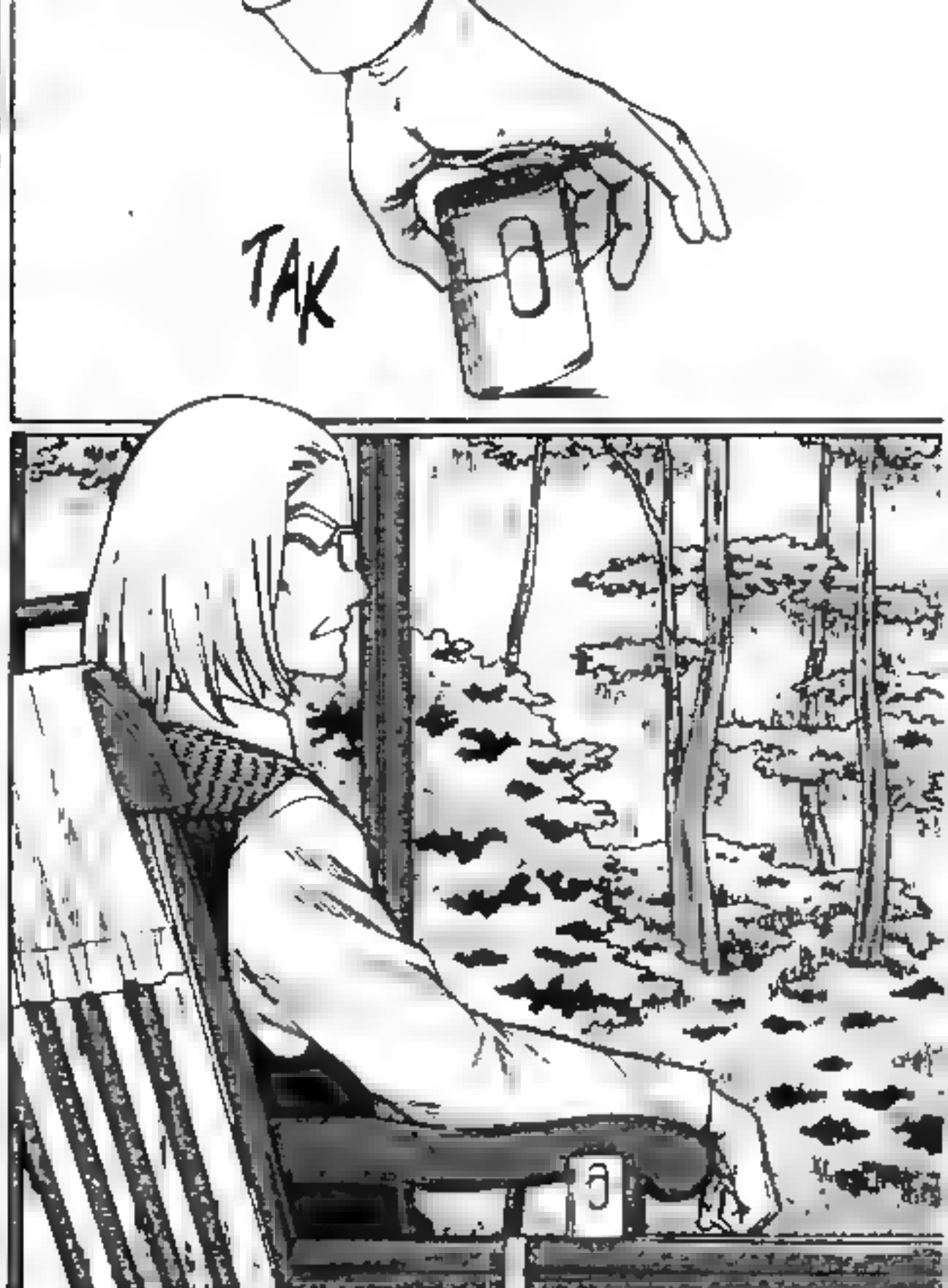


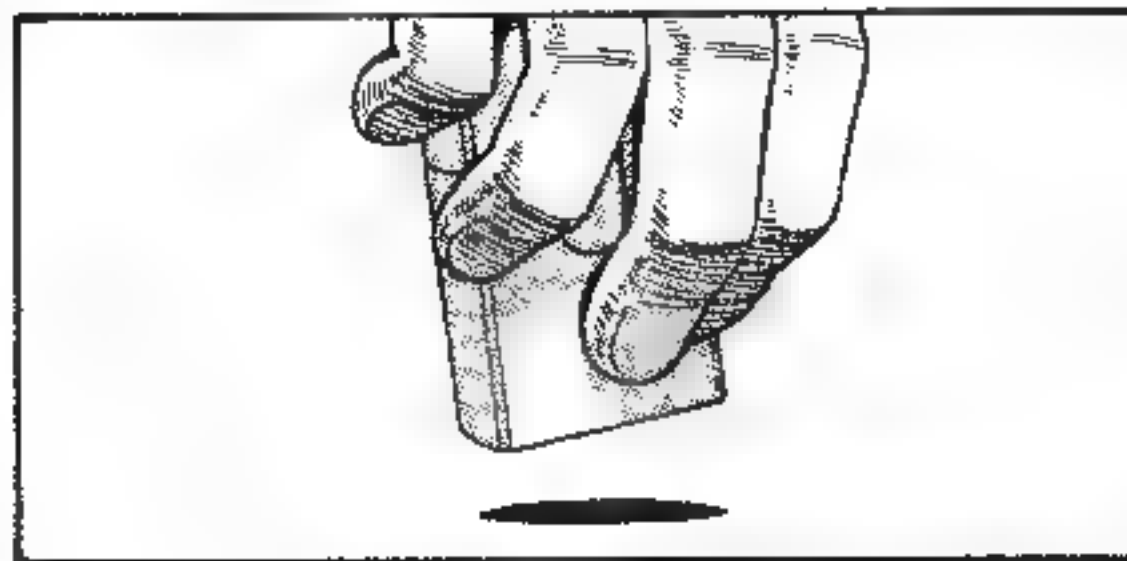
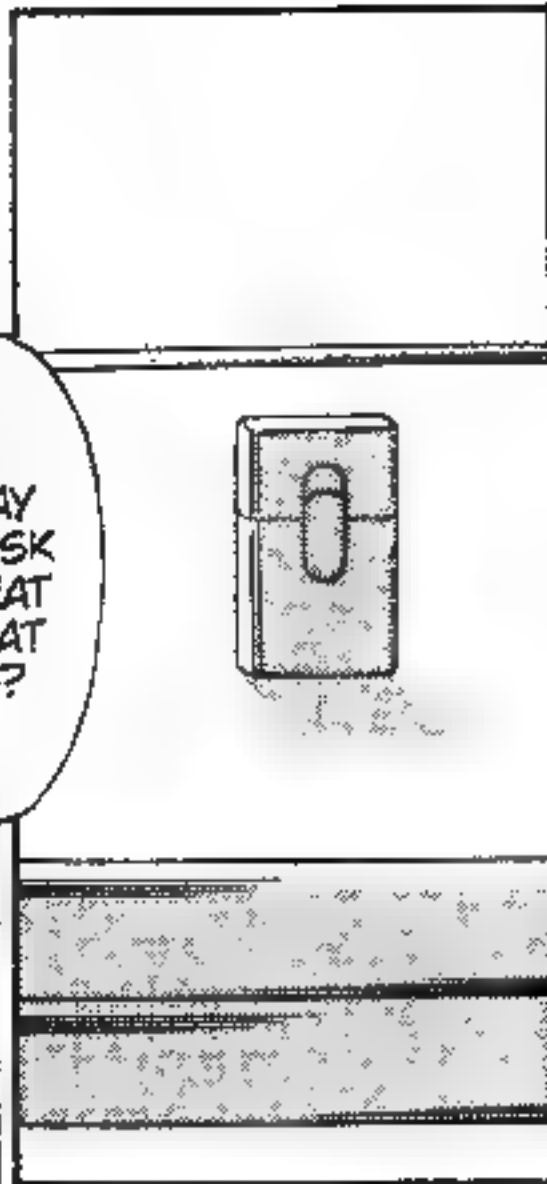


PUI.

00

TO
LORD
LI!



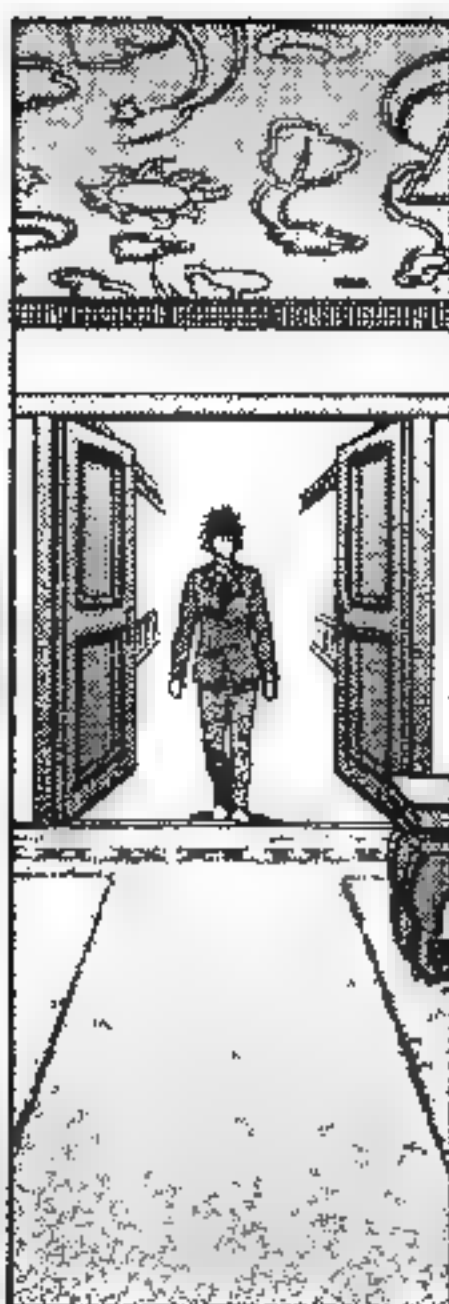




AND I HAD
TO HEAR
IT FROM HAMA.
IS IT REALLY
POSSIBLE FOR
THEIR POLICE FORCE
TO HAVE COME
ACROSS THAT KIND
OF INFORMATION
WITHOUT THE BLIND'S
INTELLIGENCE
DIVISION SNIFFING
IT OUT FIRST?



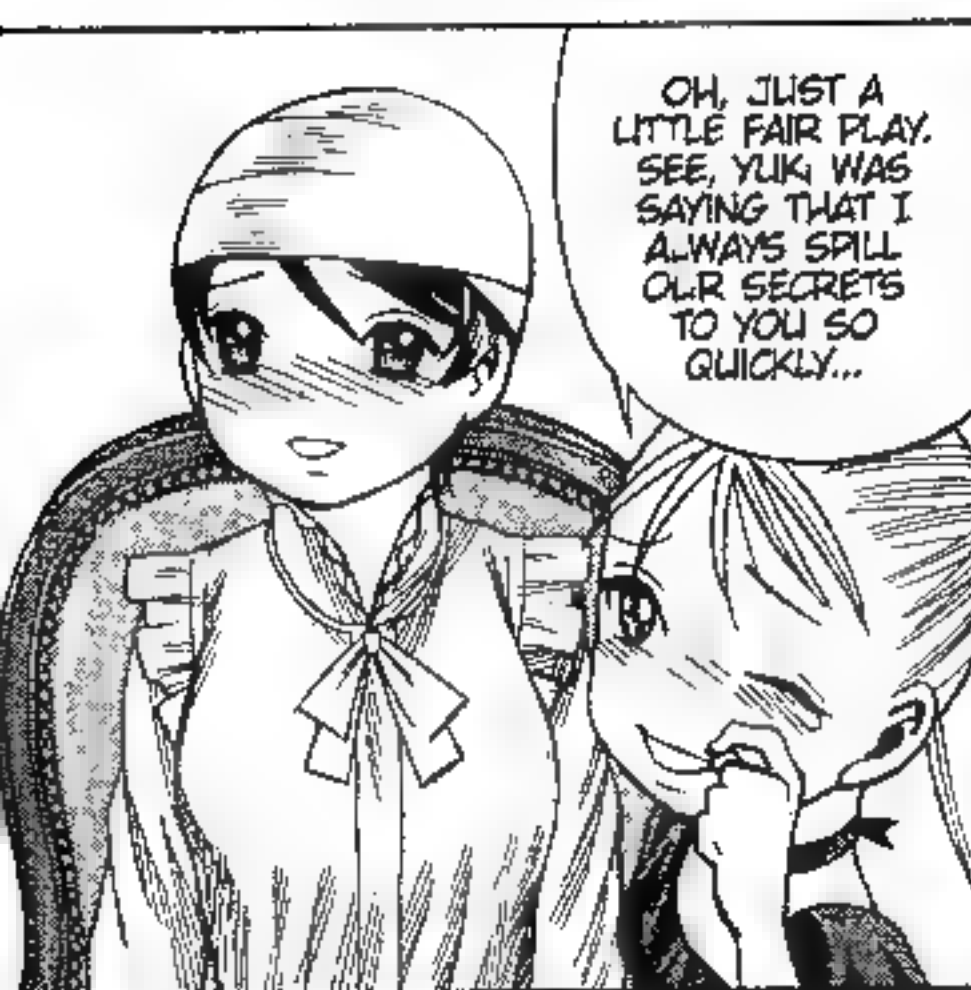
VAMPIRES.
ON THE
MAIN-
LAND.

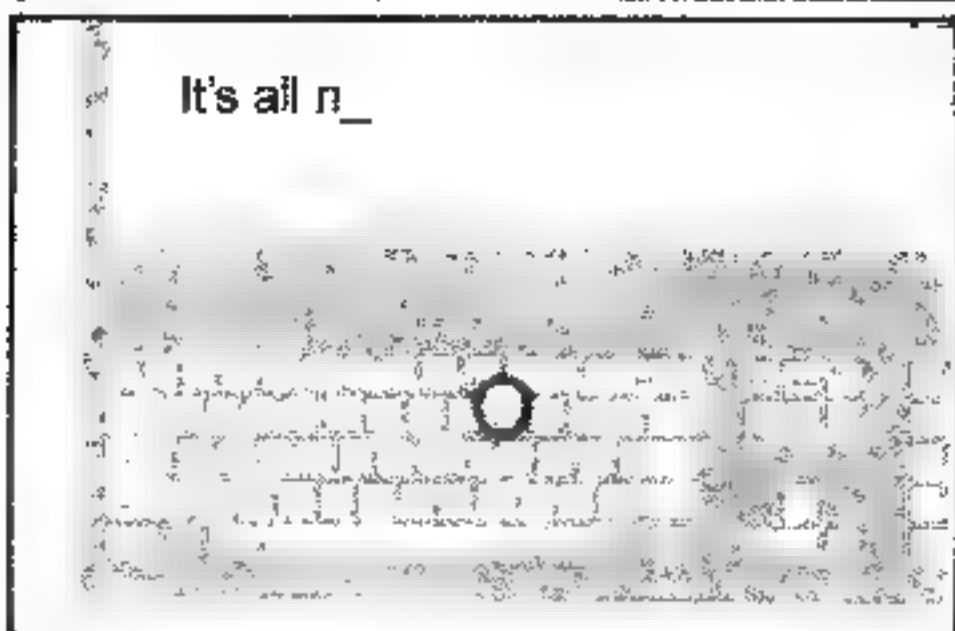


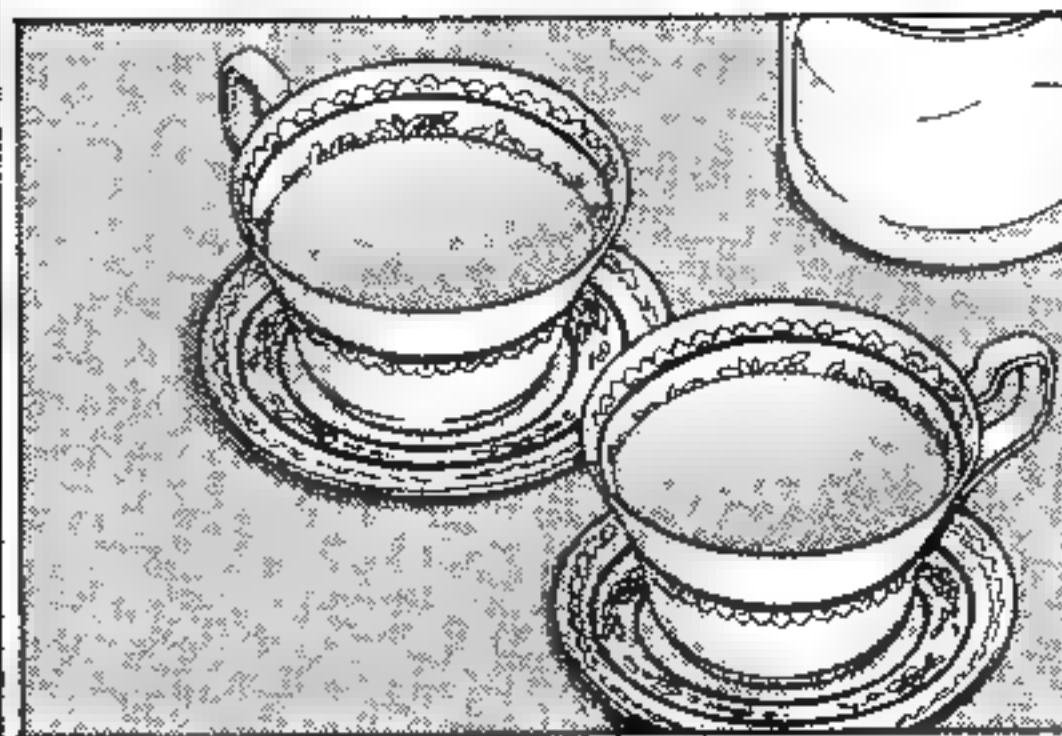
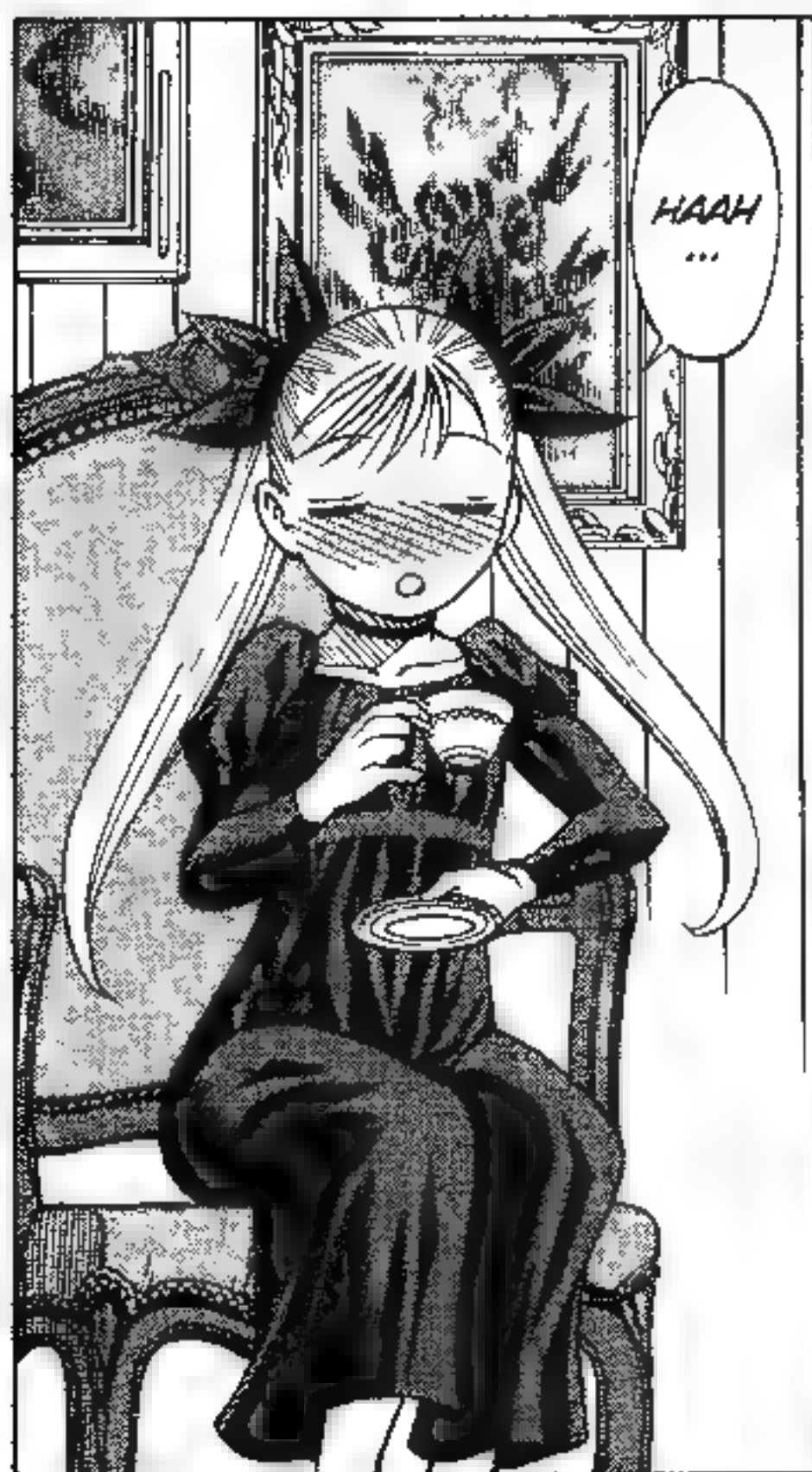
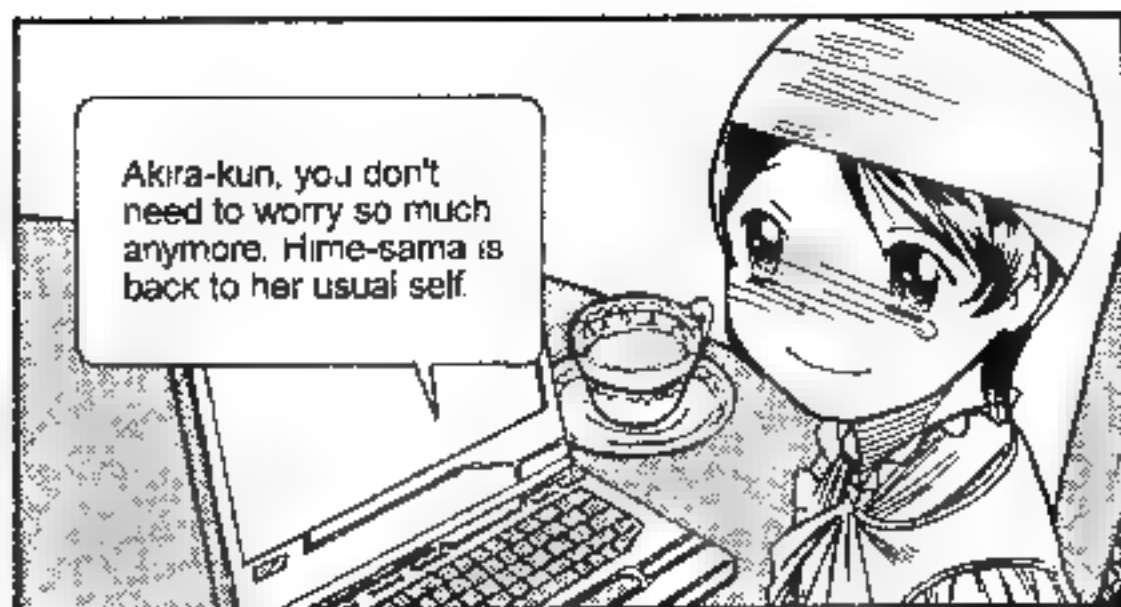
I HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT
HE'S UP TO,
AND I
DON'T
LIKE IT.

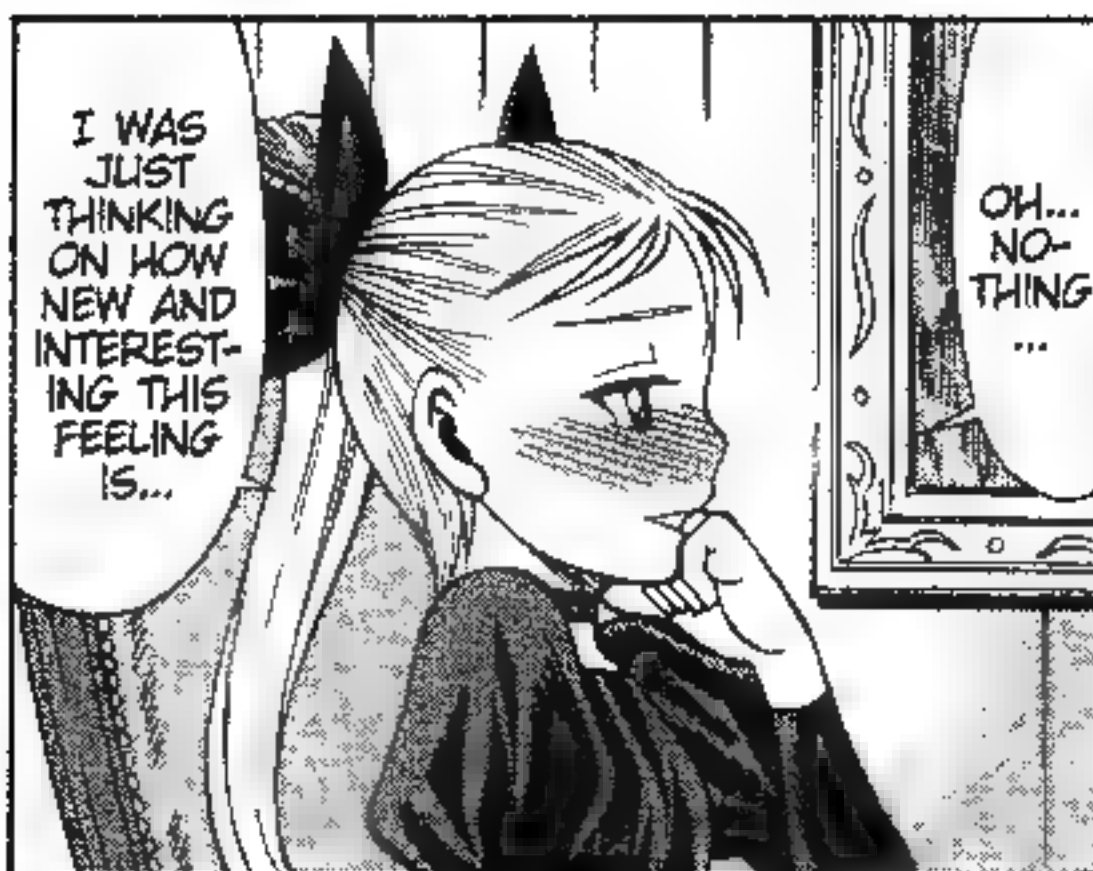


I'D BETTER
LET HIME-SAN
KNOW. IT'S
PROBABLY
SAFE TO
KEEP IT FROM
EVERYBODY
ELSE, BUT
HIME-SAN'S
GOTTA BE
TOLD!









I WAS
JUST
THINKING
ON HOW
NEW AND
INTEREST-
ING THIS
FEELING
IS...

OH...
NO-
THING
...



WHAT'S
WITH THE
HEAVY
SIGH,
HIME-
SAN?



IT IS...
WARM AND
TICKLISH.
LIKE I HAVE
BEEN WRAPPED
IN LAYER UPON
LAYER OF
FLUFFY
COTTON.



HIME-
SAN...



Give her a break.
Akira-kun
Things have been
very hard on
Hime-sama since
even before
Ivanovic's attack.

OH, COME
ON. QUIT
EXAG-
GERAT-
ING.



VERY
LONG
TIME.

AND
FOR A
VERY
...

YES.
THINGS
HAVE
BEEN
VERY,
VERY
HARD.





I'M
SORRY,
YUKI.

WE WILL
HAVE TO
POST-
PONE
OUR TEA
UNTIL
LATER.



WHAT
HAS
"BE-
GUN"
?!

TUNK

"BE-
GUN"
...?



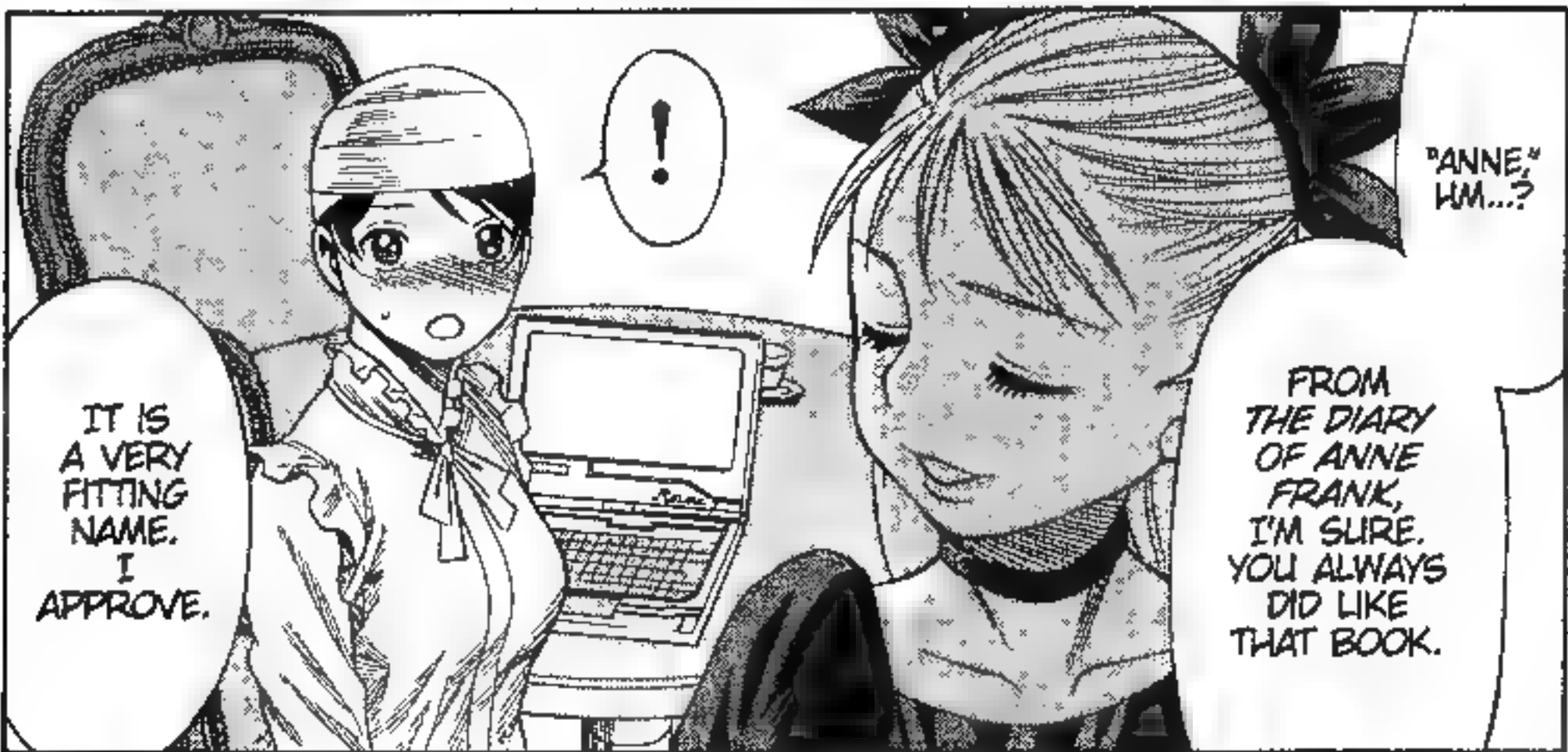
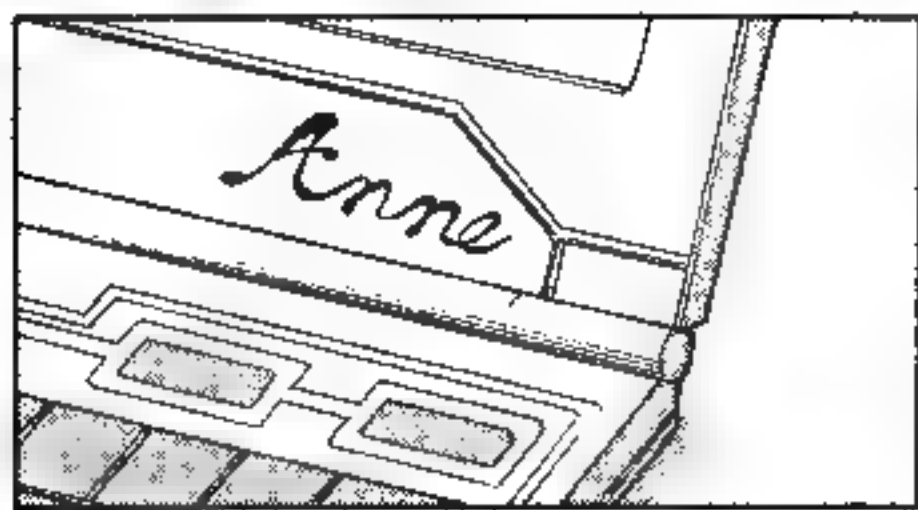
IT IS NOT
SOMETHING
WITH
WHICH YOU
HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
CONCERN
YOURSELF.

A
SUBJECT
OF VERY
COMPLEX
AND VERY
POLITICAL
IMPORT.



I SEE
YOU HAVE
GIVEN A
NAME TO
YOUR
LAPTOP.

AH.



IT IS
A VERY
FITTING
NAME.
I
APPROVE.

!

"ANNE"
HM...?

FROM
THE DIARY
OF ANNE
FRANK,
I'M SURE.
YOU ALWAYS
DID LIKE
THAT BOOK.



SORRY,
YUKI.
I'VE
GOTTA
GO,
TOO.

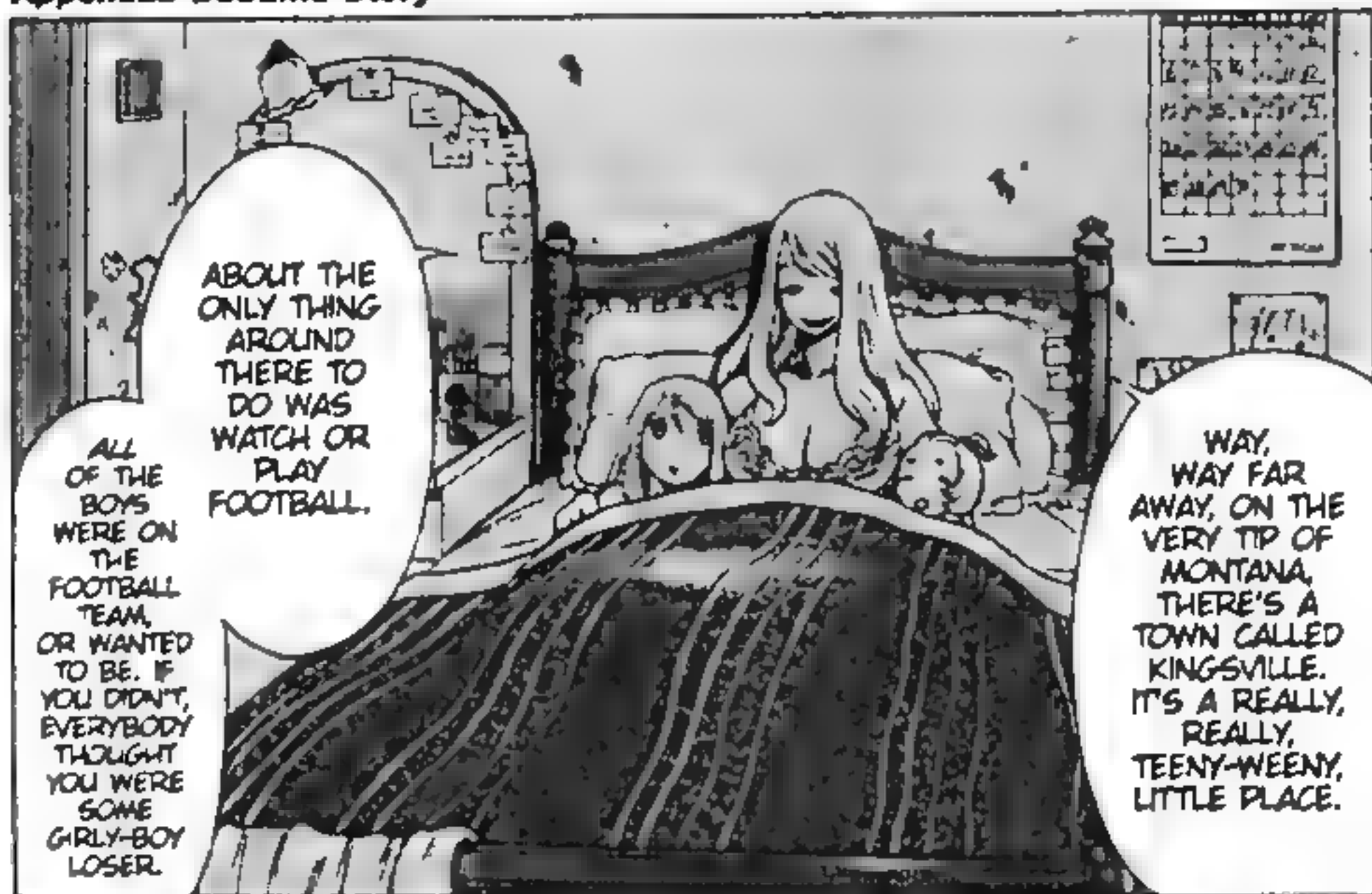
I WANT
TO DO A
LITTLE
DIGGING
AROUND
ABOUT THIS
"HIGHLY
POLITICAL"
THING THAT
JUST
HAPPENED.



FROM
THE
DIARY OF
ANNE
FRANK,
I'M
SURE...

"ANNE,"
HM...?



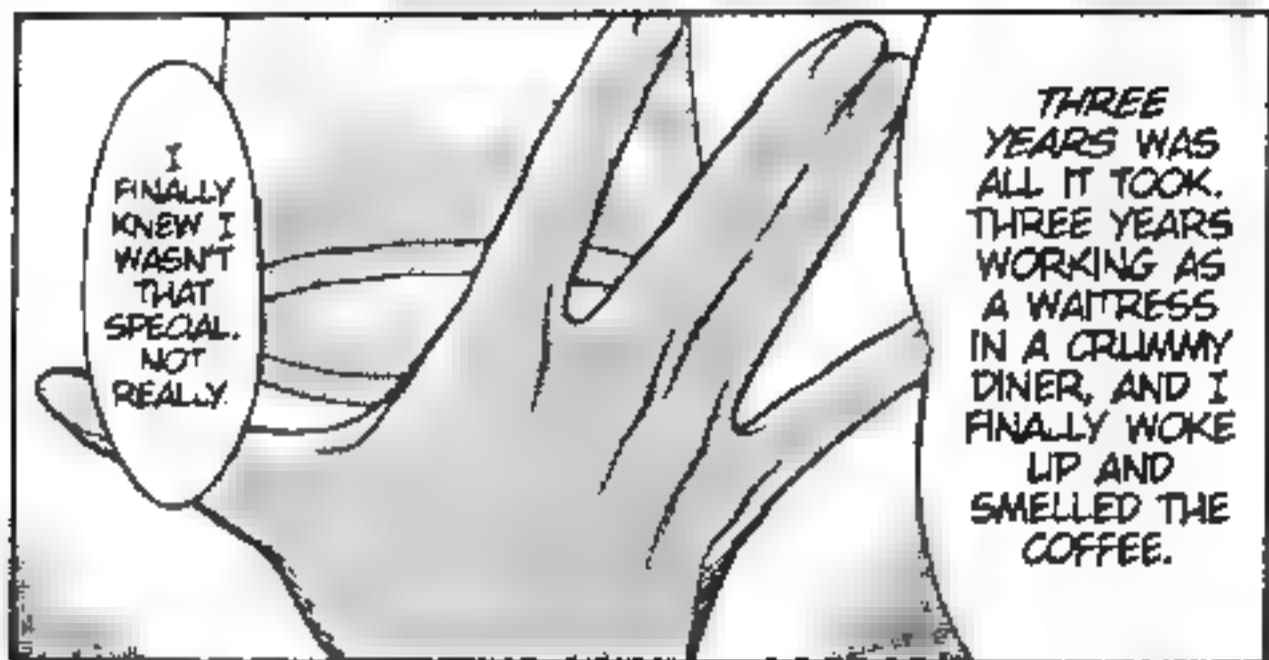




SO I PICKED UP STAKES AND CAME ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY, HERE TO NEW YORK CITY.

I REALLY BELIEVED THERE WASN'T ANYTHING I COULDN'T DO...

I THOUGHT I WAS SPECIAL.



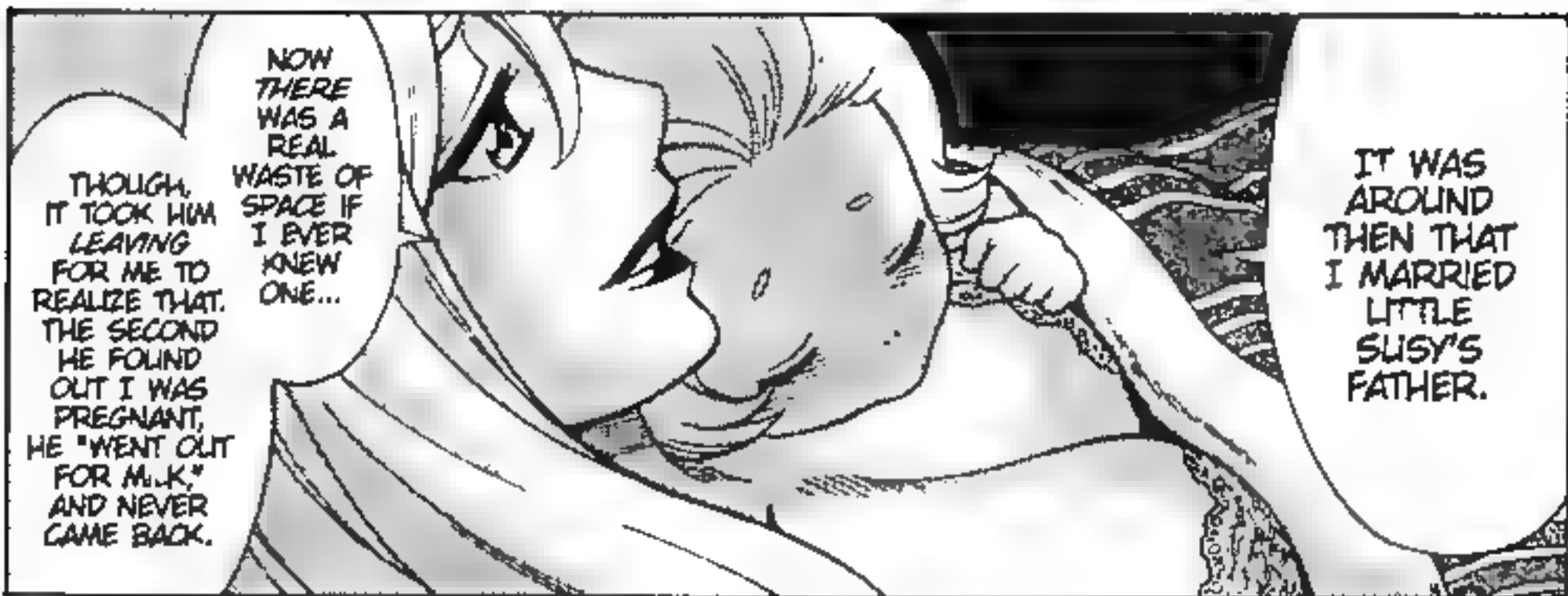
I FINALLY KNEW I WASN'T THAT SPECIAL. NOT REALLY.

THREE YEARS WAS ALL IT TOOK. THREE YEARS WORKING AS A WAITRESS IN A CRUMMY DINER, AND I FINALLY WOKE UP AND SMELLED THE COFFEE.



I WAS EVEN CROWNED QUEEN. PROM QUEEN, THAT IS. I WAS SO HAPPY!

I THINK THAT MOMENT WAS WHEN MY FUTURE SHONE THE BRIGHTEST.



THOUGH, IT TOOK HIM LEAVING FOR ME TO REALIZE THAT. THE SECOND HE FOUND OUT I WAS PREGNANT, HE "WENT OUT FOR MILK," AND NEVER CAME BACK.

NOW THERE WAS A REAL WASTE OF SPACE IF I EVER KNEW ONE...

IT WAS AROUND THEN THAT I MARRIED LITTLE SUSY'S FATHER.

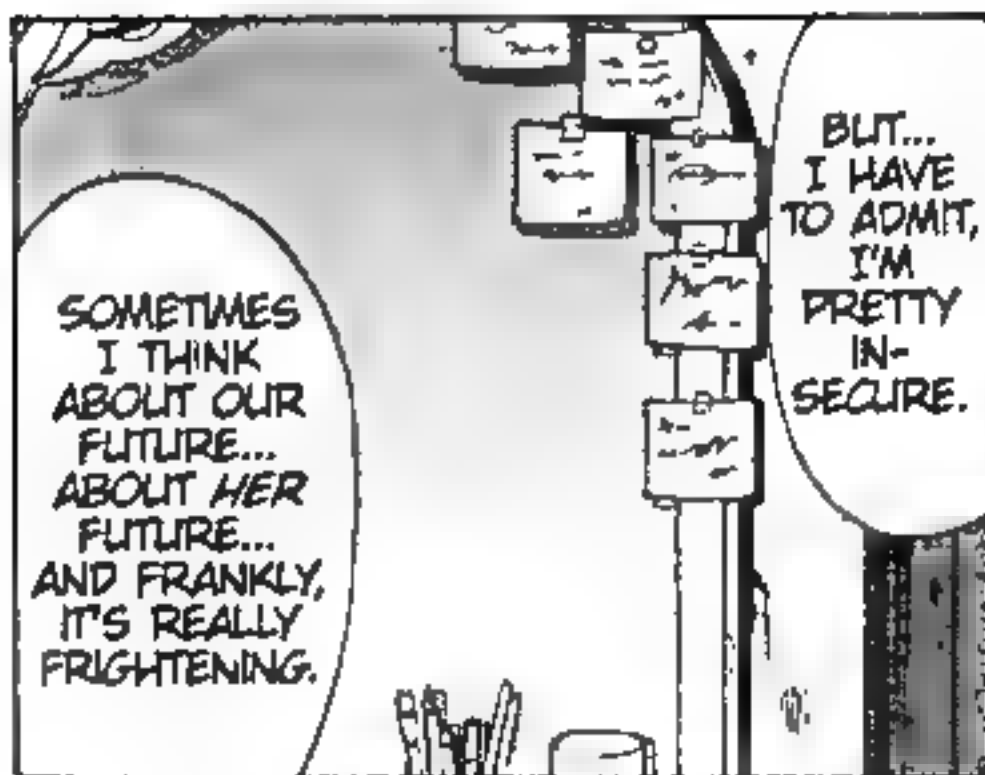


DO YOU EVER REGRET IT?



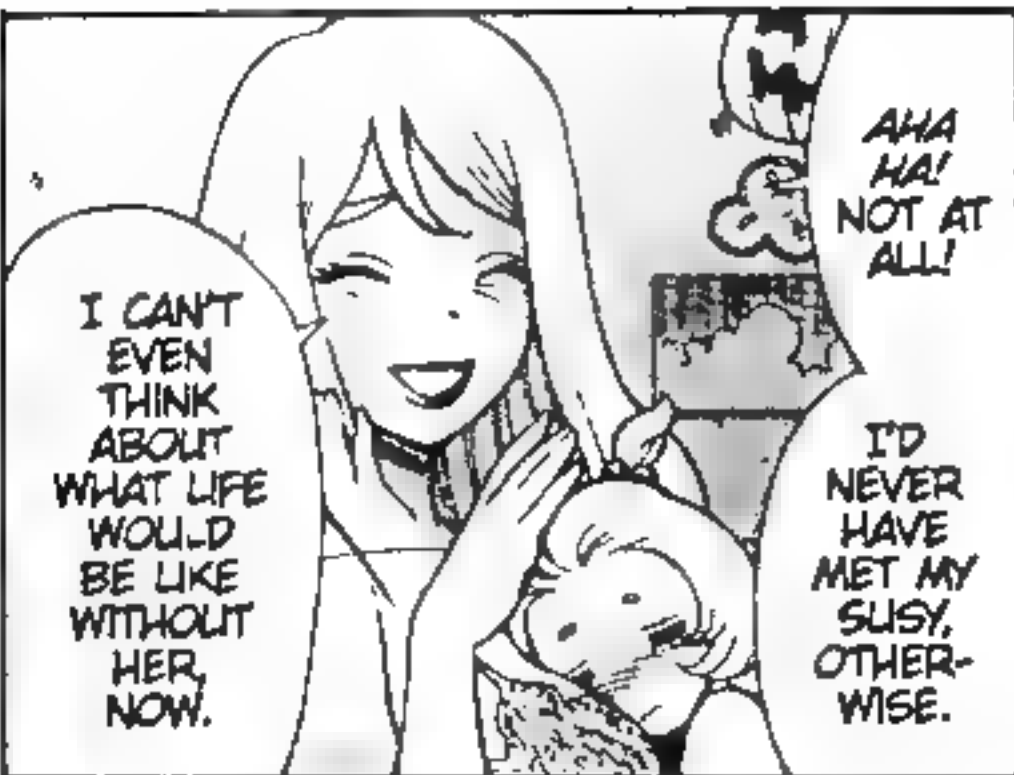
JUST THE TWO OF US.

IT'S BEEN JUST THE TWO OF US EVER SINCE.



SOMETIMES
I THINK
ABOUT OUR
FUTURE...
ABOUT HER
FUTURE...
AND FRANKLY,
IT'S REALLY
FRIGHTENING.

BUT...
I HAVE
TO ADMIT,
I'M
PRETTY
IN-
SECURE.



I CAN'T
EVEN
THINK
ABOUT
WHAT LIFE
WOULD
BE LIKE
WITHOUT
HER,
NOW.

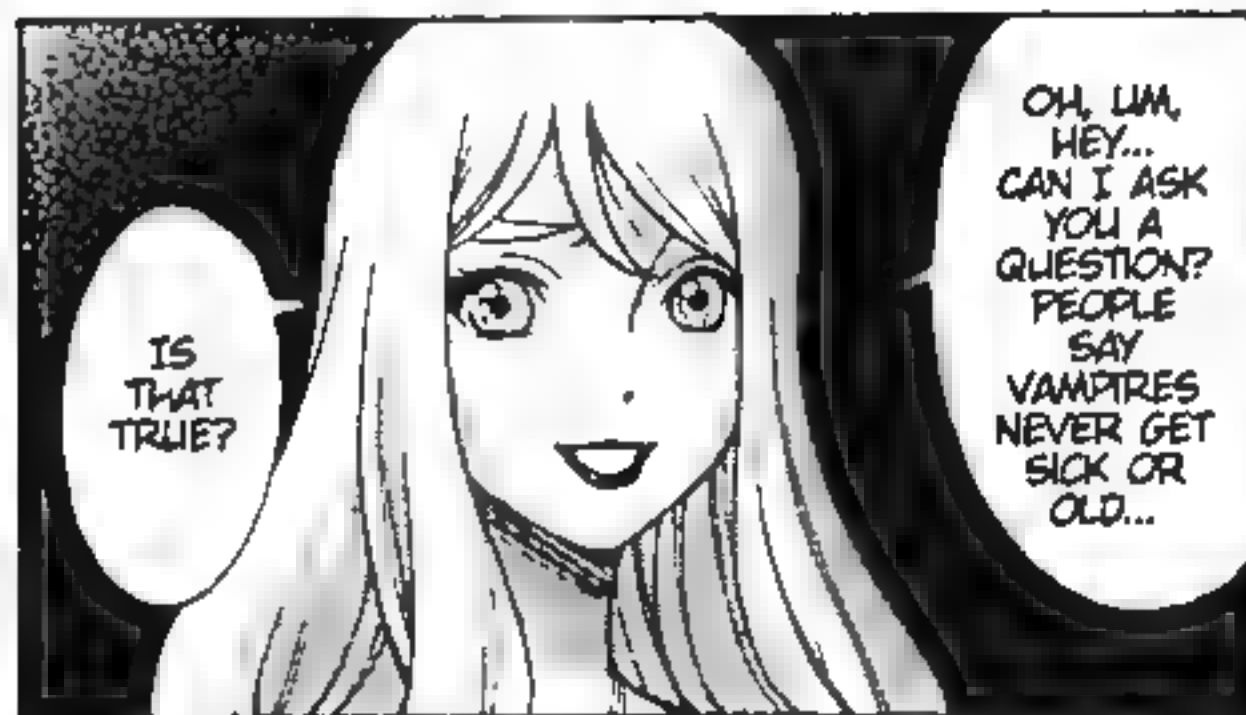
AHA
HA!
NOT AT
ALL!

I'D
NEVER
HAVE
MET MY
SUSY,
OTHER-
WISE.



I WON'T BE
YOUNG AND
BEAUTIFUL
ENOUGH FOR
IT FOREVER...
AND I DON'T
REALLY HAVE
THE SKILLS
TO MAKE IT
IN MOST
OTHER
JOBS...

BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE
THE JOB
I HAVE
NOW HAS
ANYTHING
LIKE
LONG-TERM
PROSPECTS.



IS
THAT
TRUE?

OH, UM,
HEY...
CAN I ASK
YOU A
QUESTION?
PEOPLE
SAY
VAMPRES
NEVER GET
SICK OR
OLD...



ARE
YOU
SAYING
YOU
WISH
TO BE
TURNED
?



GETTING
SICK IS
WHAT
SCARES
ME
SLEEP-
LESS AT
NIGHTS.

I
MEAN,
I DON'T
HAVE
ANY
HEALTH
INSUR-
ANCE.

AND IF I CAN'T
WORK FOR MORE
THAN A DAY OR TWO
IN A ROW, I'M OUT
OF A JOB. THEN
WE'RE OUT OF A
HOME, AND THE
BOTH OF US WILL
PROBABLY WIND UP
DYING IN A GUTTER
SOMEWHERE.



THEN WHAT HAPPENS TO ME DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. I'D GIVE UP MY HUMANITY IN A HEARTBEAT IF IT MEANT SHE COULD HAVE THAT...

IF I COULD GIVE SUSY A GOOD LIFE... A GOOD EDUCATION, A GOOD HOME...

BE-SIDES ...



AND LOOKING AT YOU, IT REALLY DOESN'T SEEM ALL THAT SCARY AND GROSS, LIKE HOW THE BOOKS AND MOVIES ALWAYS MAKE IT OUT TO BE.

I'VE GOTTA ADMIT, THE THOUGHT DID CROSS MY MIND.



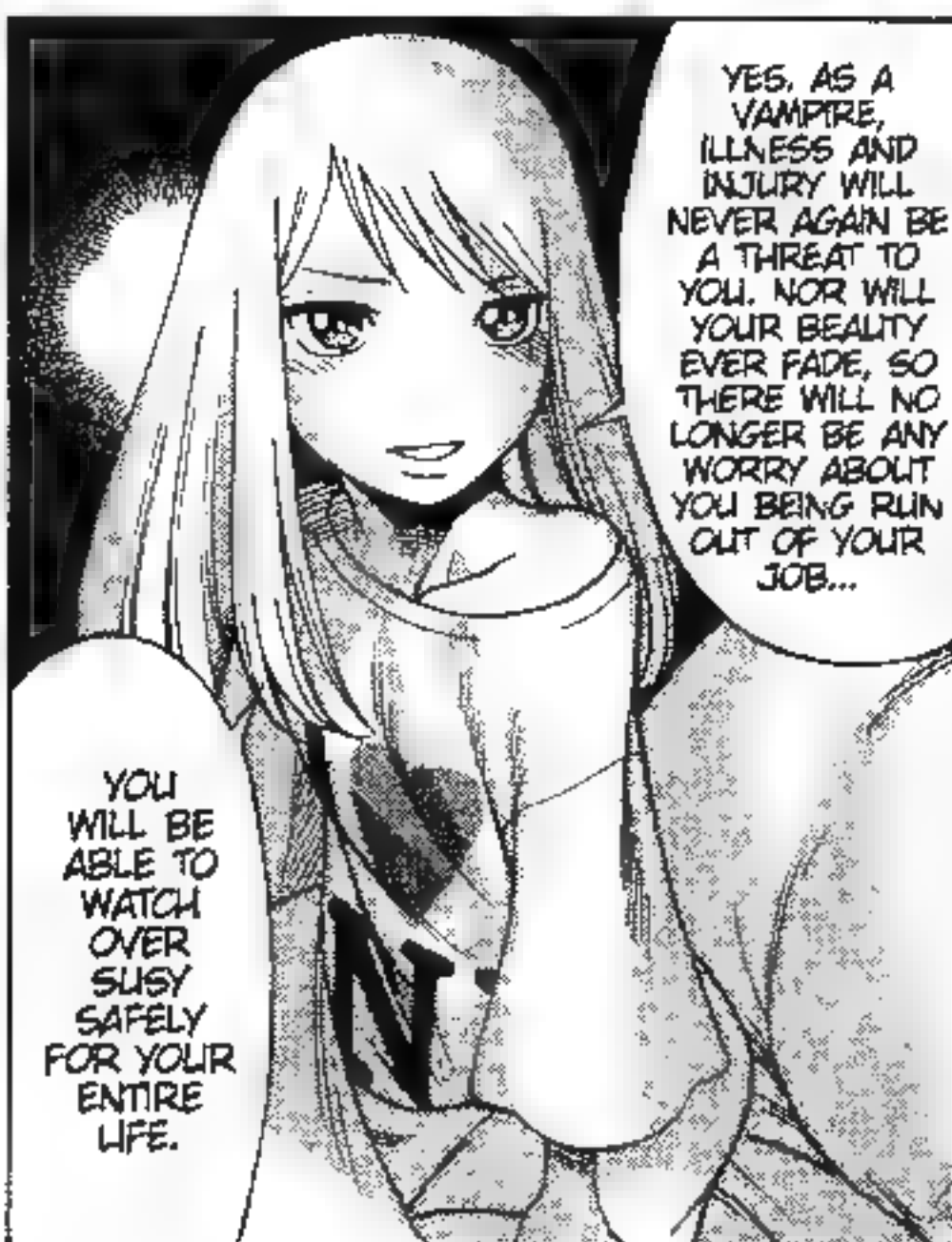
THEN I WILL DO IT FOR YOU.

IF YOU TRULY WISH TO BE TURNED, AND I MEAN IF YOU TRULY DO...



REALLY?

THAT WOULD BE SO WONDERFUL!

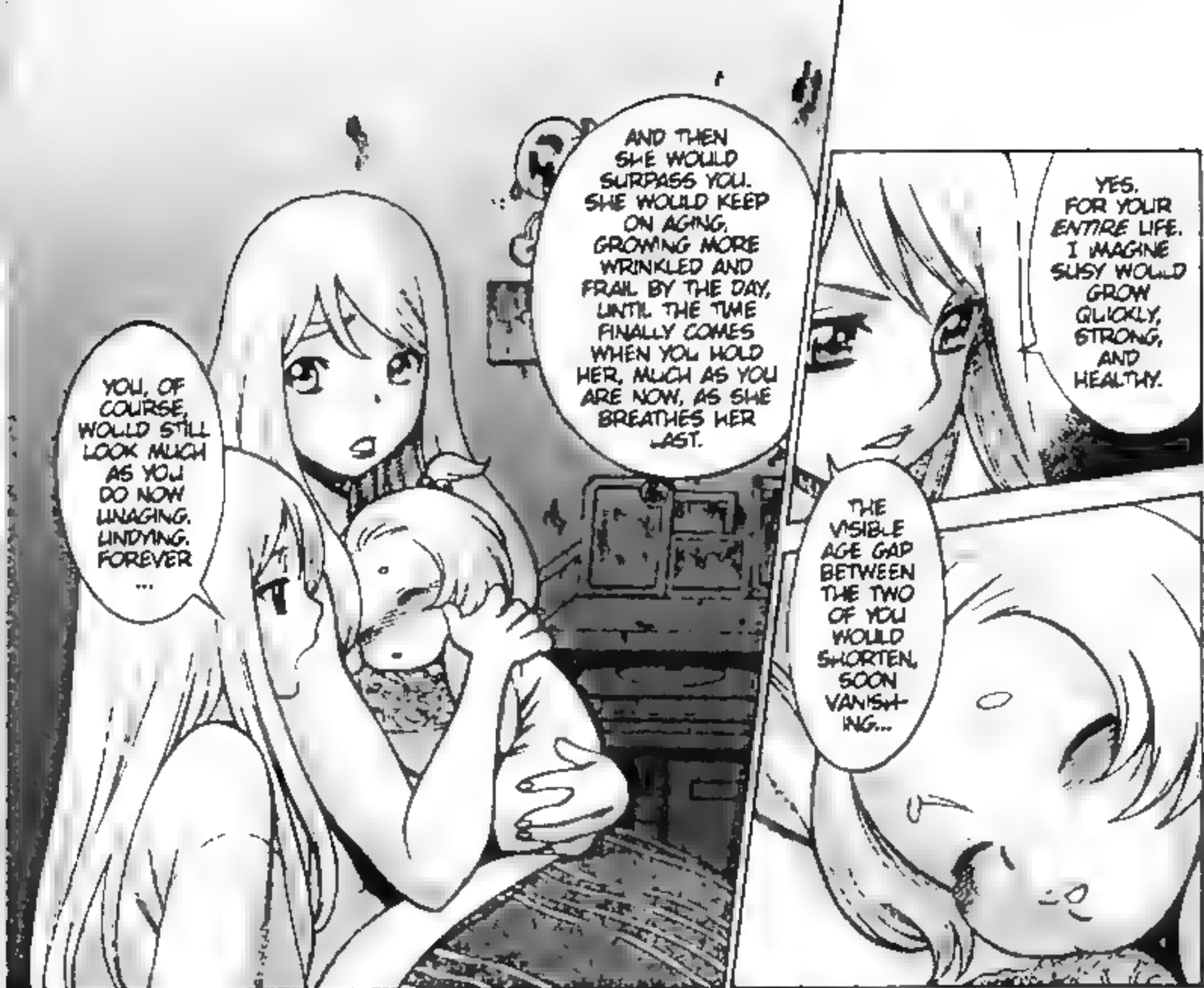


YES, AS A VAMPIRE, ILLNESS AND INJURY WILL NEVER AGAIN BE A THREAT TO YOU. NOR WILL YOUR BEAUTY EVER FADE, SO THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANY WORRY ABOUT YOU BEING RUN OUT OF YOUR JOB...

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WATCH OVER SUSY SAFELY FOR YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.



YOU WILL ...?





.....

YOU KNOW...
LISTENING
TO YOU SAY
ALL THAT,
IT SOUNDS
LIKE YOU WISH
NOBODY WOULD
EVER HAVE TO
BECOME A
VAMPIRE AT
ALL...



THAT
LIFE IS
NOT ONE
THAT
SUITS
YOU.

I
THOUGHT
NOT.



MAYBE
I DO,
JESSICA...

MAYBE
I DO...











OH,
NOW
SOME-
ONE
DECIDES
TO
SHOW
UP!!

CAN'T YOU
TELL WHAT
HAPPENED
JUST BY
LOOKING
AROUND?
IT SHOULD
BE PRETTY
DAMN
OBVIOUS!!



AND I
NEED TO
KNOW
WHAT
ON
EARTH
HAD-
PENED
HERE!!

MY NAME IS
GOTOH,
AND I AM
FROM THE
SPECIAL
DISTRICT
AFFAIRS
OFFICE.
I NEED
TO SPEAK
TO THE
PERSON IN
CHARGE!



THERE
IS A
VACCINE
THAT CAN
CURE
VAMPIRE
BITES,
AND IT IS
ON ITS
WAY
HERE,
RIGHT
NOW.

NONE
OF THE
VICTIMS
HERE WILL
BE TURNED
INTO
VAMPIRES.
THEY WILL
BE FINE!!



I THOUGHT IT
WAS YOU GUYS'
JOB TO KEEP
THOSE MONSTERS
PENNED UP ON
THEIR ISLAND,
AWAY FROM THE
REST OF US!
DID SOMEBODY
FALL ASLEEP AT
THE GATE OR
SOMETHING
?!

HOW
COULD YOU
LET THEM
JUST WALTZ
OVER HERE
AND TURN
AN UNDER-
GROUND
SHOPPING
MALL
INTO A
SNACK
BAR?!



WHAT
OF THE
VAMPIRES
INVOLVED
IN THE
ASSAULT?
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THEM?!



DIDN'T THE TOKYO POLICE SEND YOU ANY WARNING OF THAT?!

YOU SHOULD'VE RECEIVED A MESSAGE THAT SAID YOU WERE NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TO TRY A COUNTER-STRIKE UNTIL WE ARRIVED TO ADVISE YOU!



ES-
CAPED
INTO
THE
SEW-
ERS!

YOU
DID
WHAT
?!

I SENT
SOME OF
MY MEN
DOWN IN
AFTER
THEM,
BUT THOSE
FREAKS
MOPPED
THE DAMN
FLOOR
WITH
THEM!!



YEAH!
ARE YOU
IMPLYING
THAT WE'RE
JUST
SUPPOSED
TO SIT ON
OUR THUMBS
AND DO
NOTHING
TO SAVE
THEM?!

EXCUSE ME,
MA'AM,
BUT THERE
ARE STILL
CIVILIANS
TRAPPED
ON THE
LOWEST
FLOORS!!



NOT
ONLY THAT,
THE
VAMPIRES
ARE HIDING
IN AN
ABSOLUTE
MAZE OF
TUNNELS,
WHERE NO
SUNLIGHT
WILL EVER
REACH
THEM.

RUNNING
INTO
THAT IS
SUICIDE!

STANDARD
SAT
EQUIPMENT
IS
NORMAL
ANTI-
PERSON-
NEL GEAR.
IT WILL DO
NOTHING
TO
VAMPIRES
!!

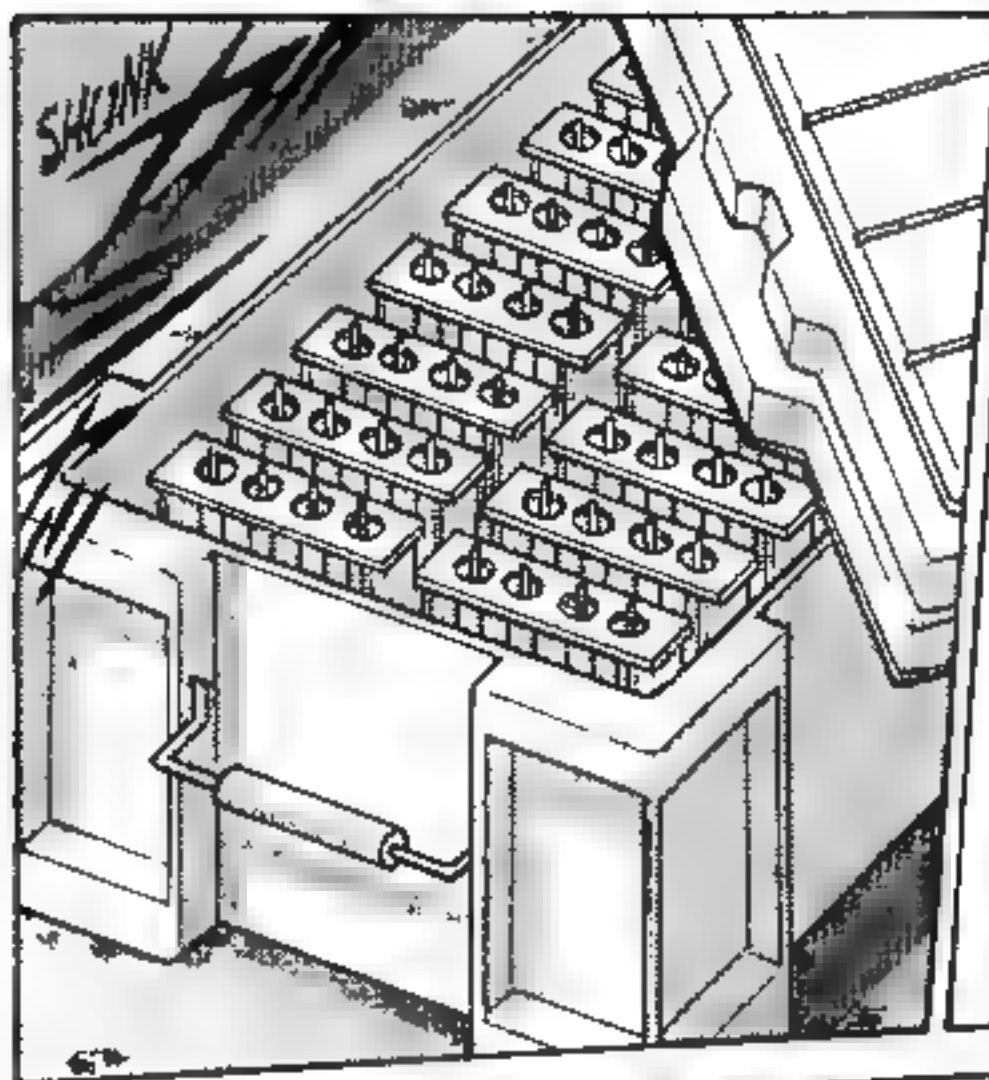


I'VE
ALREADY
SENT A
REQUEST
TO THE
TOKYO
POLICE
CHIEF FOR
PERMISSION
TO DEPLOY
A SAT* TEAM.

YOU
WILL
DO
NO-
THING
OF
THE
SORT
!!

WE WILL
BEGIN
PLANNING
OUR
NEXT
ATTACK
THE VERY
SECOND
THEY
ARRIVE!!

*"SAT" stands for Special Assault Team. Think SWAT team.



UH,
I'M FROM
THE
MINISTRY
OF HEALTH,
LABOR AND
WELFARE!
I HAVE THE
VACCINE!!

SO
WHAT
THE
HELL
ARE
WE
SUP-
POSED
TO DO,
THEN
?!!



WHAT?!
NONE OF
THE
REPORTS
WE
RECEIVED
SAID
ANYTHING
ABOUT
THAT!!

THE BLIND
GENERALLY
DONATES A
CONTAINER
OF VACCINE
TO THE
MINISTRY
EVERY THREE
MONTHS.
THIS IS THE
ENTIRETY OF
THE LATEST
BATCH WE
RECEIVED
FROM THEM.

WELL,
ALL THAT'S
STILL USEABLE
FROM THAT
BATCH, ANYWAY.
EVERYTHING
ELSE WE HAVE
IS PAST ITS
EXPIRATION
DATE...



WELL,
WE'VE
GOT OVER
THREE
HUNDRED
VICTIMS!
NOW
WHAT?!

THERE
ISN'T
EVEN
ENOUGH
FOR A
HUNDRED
PEOPLE
IN
HERE...



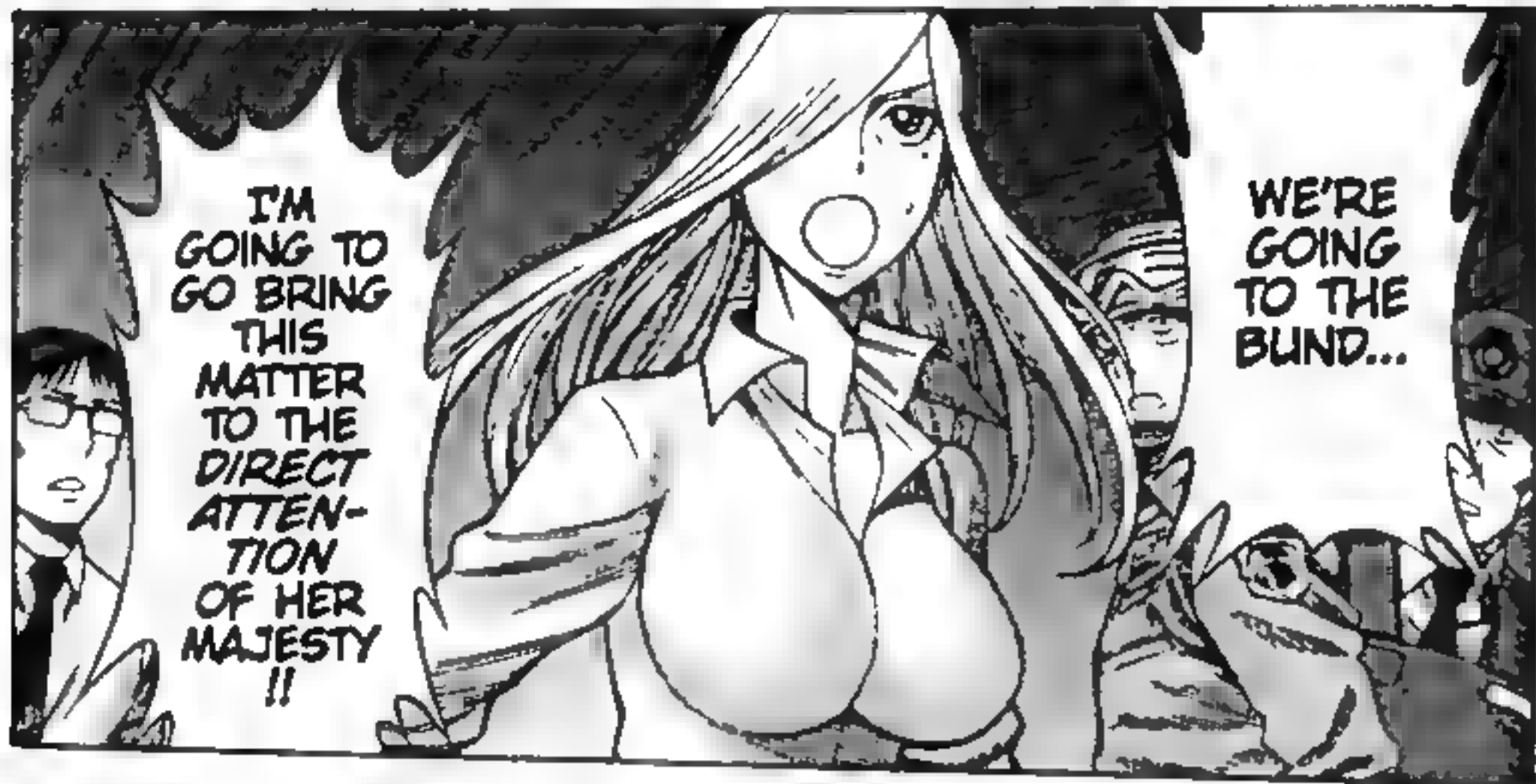
THAT IS
BECAUSE
ANYTHING
PERTAINING
TO THE
VAMPIRISM
VACCINE WAS
ALWAYS BEEN
WITHIN
THE SOLE
JURISDICTION
OF THE
MINISTRY OF
HEALTH...



HAMA-KUN,
COME WITH ME!

THIS IS
POINT-LESS!

AND YOUR
FORMER
SUPERIOR
WAS THE
ONE WHO
DETERMINED
THERE WAS
NO NEED
TO INFORM
ANYBODY
ELSE
ABOUT IT,
I ASSUME
?!



I'M
GOING TO
GO BRING
THIS
MATTER
TO THE
DIRECT
ATTEN-
TION
OF HER
MAJESTY
!!

WE'RE
GOING
TO THE
BUND...



BUT
DON'T
BE
CARE-
LESS!

WE
MUST BE
FAST,
BUT ALSO
CALM
AND
EFFICIENT
!!

C'MON,
GIRLS,
BE
QUICK
!!



INA-HIME
IS NOT R
SHE'S A F

TKX
TKX



NOW'S
MY
CHANCE.

EVERYONE'S
SO BUSY,
THEY'RE
NOT PAYING
ATTENTION
TO ME...

SEND

DRAFT



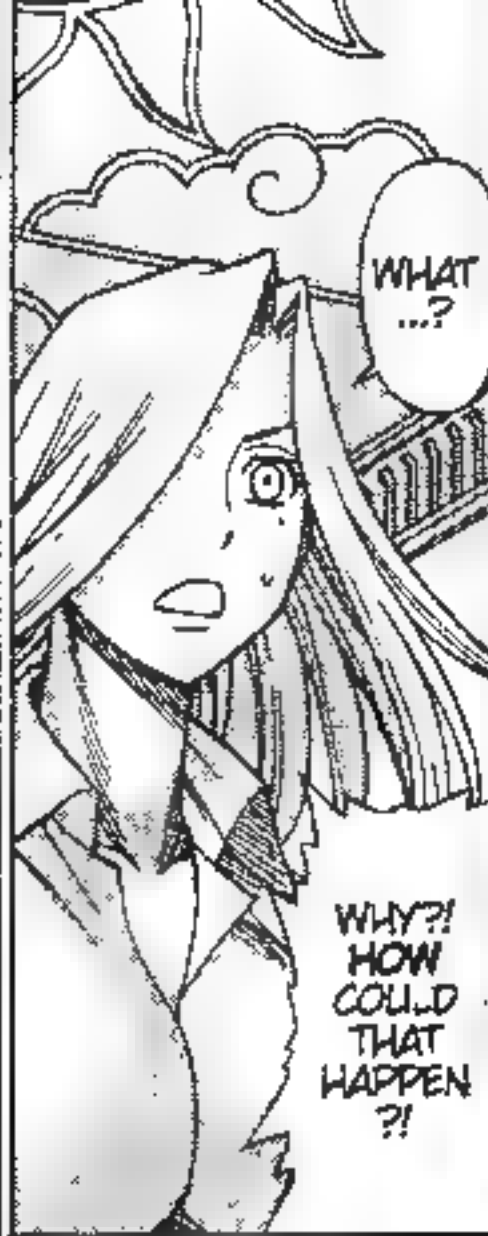
PLEASE,
AKIRA-KUN.
YOU
HAVE TO
CATCH
ON.

THE
HIME-SAMA
THAT'S HERE
RIGHT NOW
ISN'T REALLY
OUR HIME-S
SAMA....!



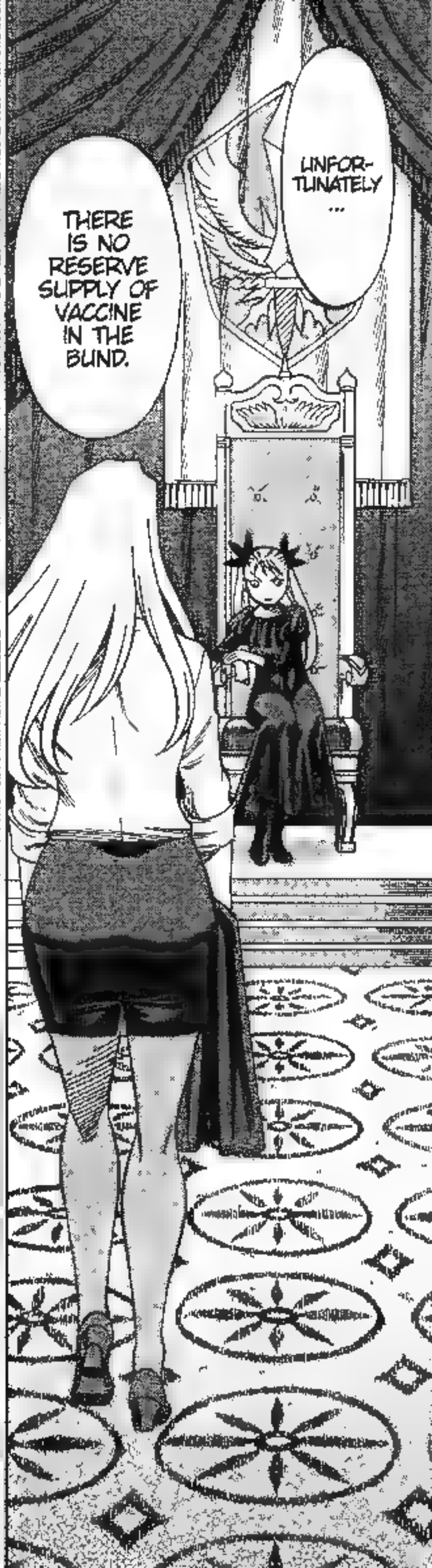
IT WAS
A FEW
MONTHS
AGO, I
BELIEVE.
YES...

IT
CAME TO OUR
ATTENTION THAT
SOMETHING WAS
CONTAMINATING
THE VACCINE
PRODUCED IN OUR
FACILITIES, WITH A
LARGE POSSIBILITY
OF SABOTAGE.
TO PREVENT
FURTHER
CONTAMINATED
VACCINE FROM
BEING
PRODUCED...



WHAT
...?

WHY?!
HOW
COULD
THAT
HAPPEN
?!



THERE
IS NO
RESERVE
SUPPLY OF
VACCINE
IN THE
BUND.

UNFOR-
TUNATELY
...



THE ENTIRE FACILITY
WAS SHUT DOWN
UNTIL THE SOURCE
COULD BE LOCATED
AND ELIMINATED.
ONLY A FEW DAYS
LATER, A ROGUE
GANG BROKE INTO
THE WAREHOUSE
WHERE OUR
RESERVE WAS
STORED, LOOKING
FOR SOMETHING
OF VALUE TO
STEAL,
I'M SURE.

THEY WERE
DISCOVERED,
HOWEVER,
AND IN THEIR
PANIC, THEY
SET OFF
EXPLOSIVES...
THE ENTIRE
WAREHOUSE
BURNED TO
THE GROUND,
TAKING OUR
WHOLE
RESERVE
SUPPLY
WITH IT.





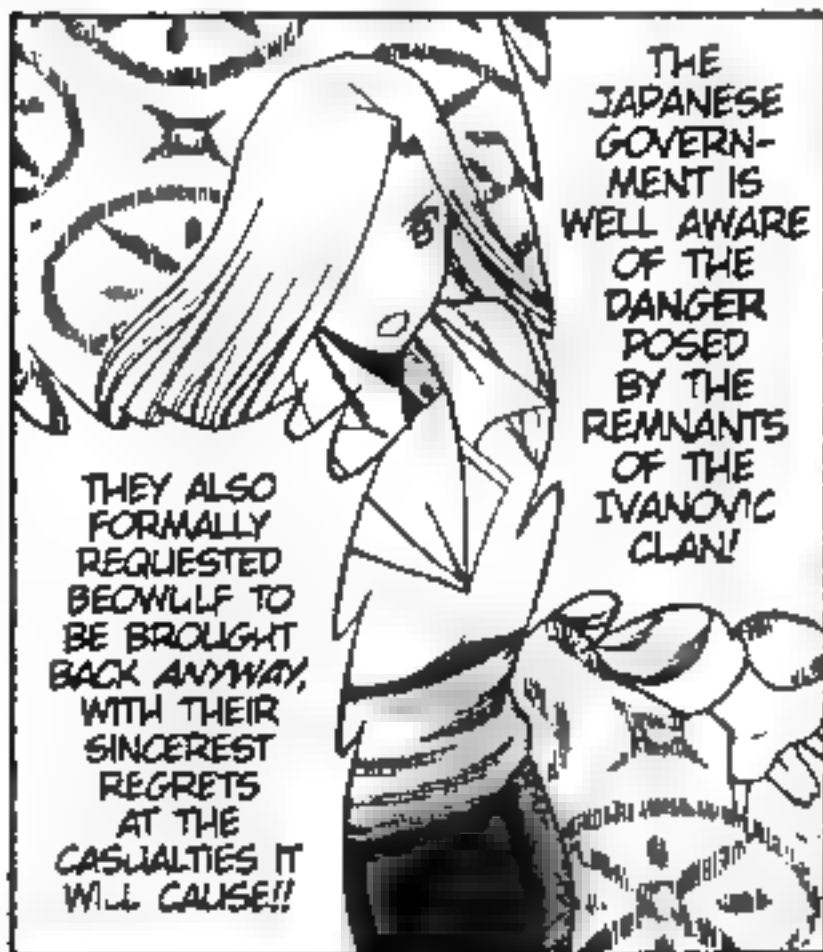
WHY
?!

I AM
AFRAID
THAT IS
ALSO IMPOSSIBLE.



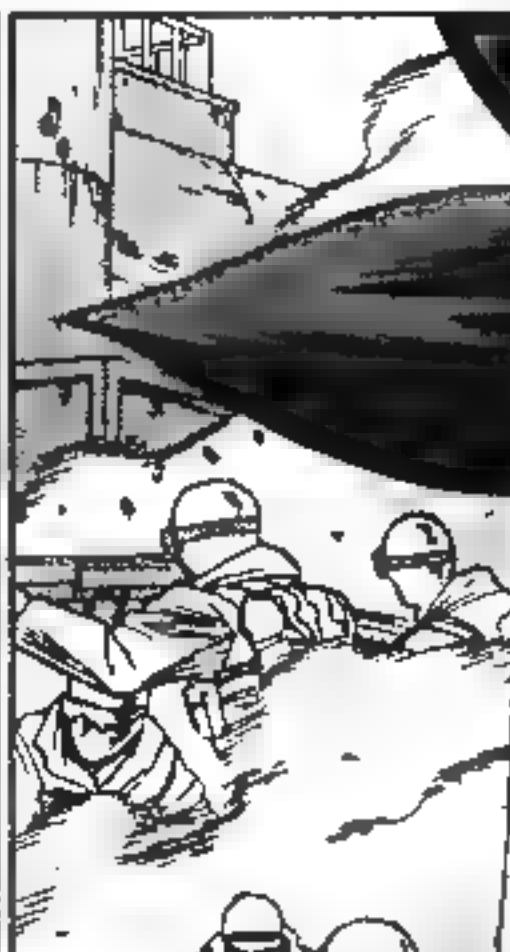
I
FORMALLY
REQUEST
THE ASSIS-
TANCE OF
BEOWULF
IN TRACK-
ING DOWN
AND DE-
STROYING
THE ROGUE
VAMPIRES!

YOUR
MAJESTY,
TO PREVENT
THIS
INCIDENT
FROM
CREATING
EVEN
MORE...
CASUALTIES,
AS YOU
PUT IT,
SWIFT
ACTION
MUST BE
TAKEN!!



THEY ALSO
FORMALLY
REQUESTED
BEOWULF TO
BE BROUGHT
BACK ANYWAY,
WITH THEIR
SINCEREST
REGRETS
AT THE
CASUALTIES IT
WILL CAUSE!!

THE
JAPANESE
GOVERN-
MENT IS
WELL AWARE
OF THE
DANGER
POSED
BY THE
REMNANTS
OF THE
IVANOVIC
CLAN!



PRESENTLY,
MY LOYAL KNIGHTS
ARE ENGAGED IN
A MISSION TO
ELIMINATE THE
LAST DANGEROUS
ELEMENTS OF THE
IVANOVIC CLAN.
IT IS NOT AN EASY
BATTLE, AND IT
HAS REQUIRED
ME TO SEND IN
THE ENTIRETY
OF
BEOWULF.



THAT
THEY DID.

THEY SEEM
QUITE EAGER
TO HAVE US
REMOVE A
CANCER THAT
HAS BEEN
ROTTING AWAY
AT THEIR
COUNTRY SINCE
BEFORE THE
TURN OF THE
CENTURY.

HOWEVER,
THIS MISSION
DOES NOT
INVOLVE ONLY
MY KINGDOM
AND THE
JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT.
THERE IS THE
WILL OF THE
RUSSIAN
GOVERNMENT
TO BE
CONSIDERED
AS WELL.



TO ATTEMPT
TO PULL
OUT ANY OF
BEOWULF
RIGHT NOW
WOULD KILL
MORE THAN
IT WOULD
SAVE.

TO MAKE
THINGS WORSE,
THE LI CLAN HAS
ALSO BECOME
INVOLVED ON THE
SIDE OF IVANOVIC,
TURNING WHAT
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN A QUICK
DEPLOYMENT
INTO AN ALMOST
FULL-SCALE
WAR.

ACCORDINGLY,
I WILL
MOBILIZE A
DIVISION OF
MY VGS,
THE BLIND'S
OWN
SECURITY
FORCE,
TO ASSIST
YOU WITH
THE
ROGUES.

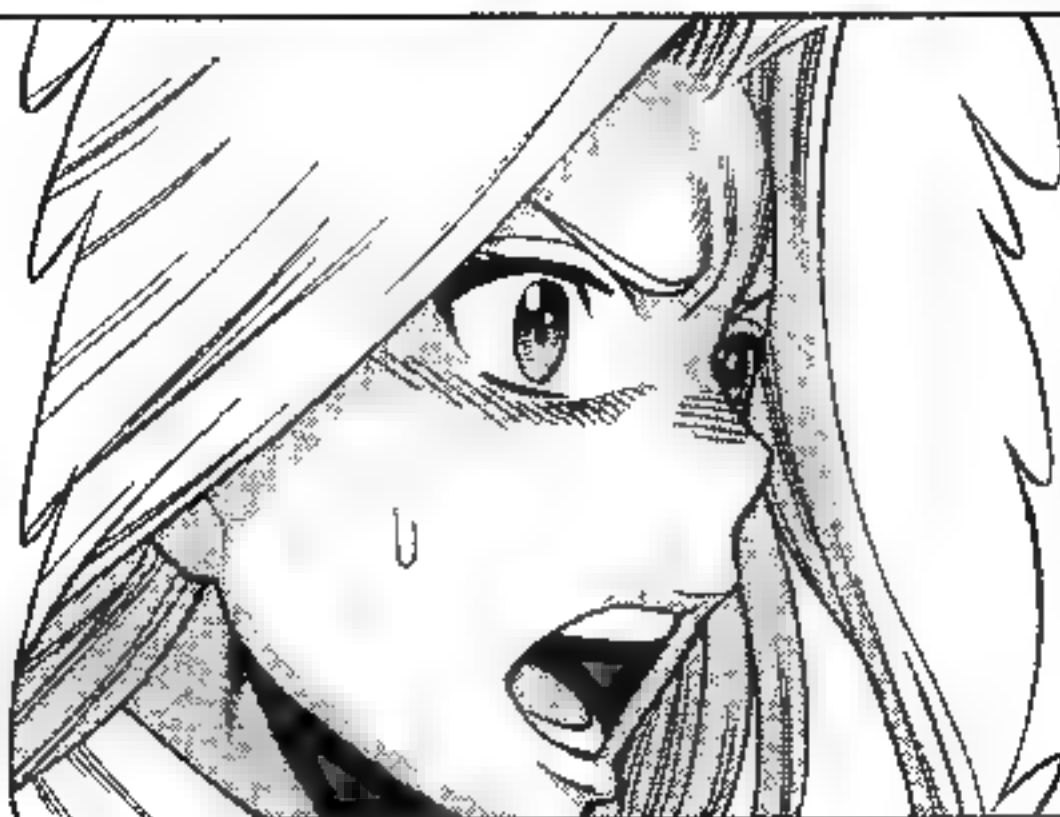


OF
COURSE
NOT.
I WOULD
NEVER
FORCE
SUCH AN
UNTEN-
ABLE
POSITION
UPON
YOU.



SO ARE
YOU SAYING
THAT WE
WILL HAVE
ONLY THE
LOCAL,
HUMAN
POLICE
FORCES
TO USE
AGAINST
THIS
THREAT?!

THAT
WILL
ONLY
MAKE
THINGS
WORSE
!!



SO TO
DEAL WITH
VAMPIRES
WHO ESCAPED
YOUR ISLAND,
YOU PROPOSE
TO SEND
EVEN MORE
VAMPIRES
OUTSIDE OF
THE BLIND?!



YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY.



IF YOU
HAVE ANY
OTHER
SUGGESTIONS,
I WILL
GLADLY
HEAR
THEM.



MY
DEVELOPING
ABILITY
WILL
ALWAYS
BE
DRAWN
TO
YOUR
ATTENTION

YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY
!!



WHAT
WE
REALLY
NEED
IS
YOU

IS NOT
WORDS,
YOUR
MAJESTY



THE
SEVERITY OF
THIS CALAMITY IS
NOT LOST ON ME
AS THE LEADER
OF THE VAMPIRE
PEOPLE I FEEL THE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR IT HEAVILY.
THE LIVES
SUFFERED BY BOTH
SIDES WILL
NOT BE LOST
I PROMISE

PLEASE
TELL YOUR
SUPERIORS THAT
I WILL HAPPILY
DO ANYTHING
WITHIN MY
ADMINISTRATION'S
POWER TO AID
THEM IN THEIR
PLIGHT.



THE WEAK POINT OF OUR LITTLE HODGE-PODGE SETUP HERE JUST GOT HIT HARD.

THE REAL PROBLEM WE'VE GOT RIGHT NOW IS THAT THE SPECIAL DISTRICT AFFAIRS OFFICE IS THE LAST ONE TO KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING GOING ON.

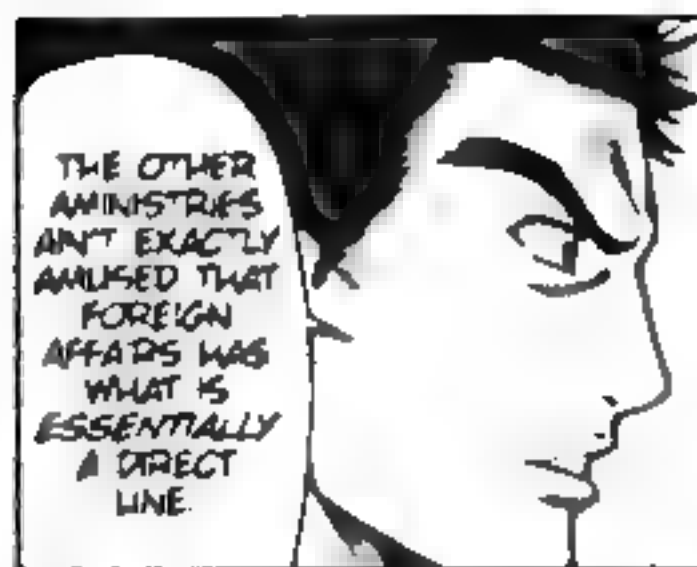
HEY, WE COULDN'T KNOW SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN TODAY. THAT MILK'S GOOD AND SPILLED NOW, SO NO USE CRYIN' OVER IT.



YEAH, DAMMIT, AND AFTER ALL YOU WENT THROUGH TO GET ME THAT INFO THIS MORNING...

S H E E S H ...

NEVER EXPECTED THINGS TO GO DOWN THIS FAST.



THE OTHER AMINISTRIES AIN'T EXACTLY AMUSED THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A DIRECT LINE.

THE OFFICIAL HEAD OF THAT SPECIAL DISTRICT AFFAIRS OFFICE IS GOTOH-SAN, AND SHE'S A PART OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT THE SPECIAL DISTRICT AFFAIRS OFFICE IS SET UP AS A KIND OF "CONNECTION POINT" BETWEEN THE BUND AND THE MINISTRIES OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HEALTH, LABOR AND WELFARE AND LOTS OF OTHER LITTLE MINISTRIES, RIGHT?

HODGE-PODGE ...?



BESIDES, GOTOH-SAN WAS A FAVORITE OF HER MAJESTY'S. ALL THEY COULD DO WAS LEAVE BE AND LET HER HANDLE THINGS.

AS LONG AS THE ONLY ACTUAL DUTY OF THE SPECIAL DISTRICT AFFAIRS OFFICE WAS ACTING AS A GLOVED PAGE BETWEEN THE BUND AND THE GOVERNMENT, THEY KEPT QUIET.





THIS
MESS
IS IN
YOUR
LAP,
TOO!

IT'S
NOT LIKE
YOU'RE
A TOTAL
BY-
STANDER
HERE
Y'KNOW.



GOTOH-
SAN'S
GOT ONE
HELLAVA
LIP!!
BATTLE IN
FRONT OF
HER RIGHT
NOW...

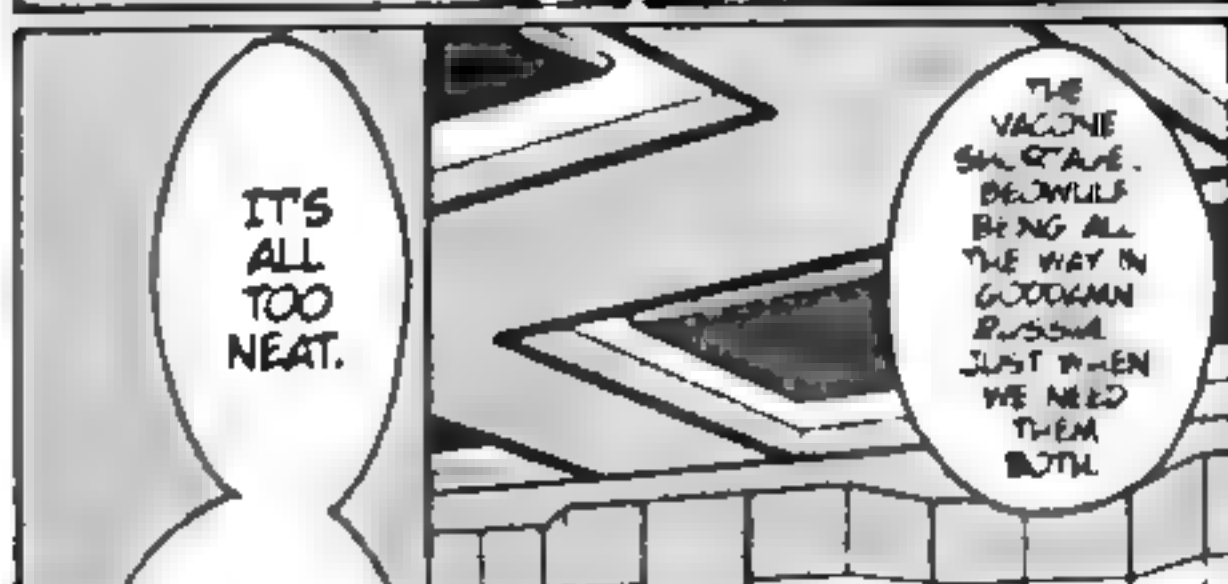
HAMA-
SAN...



BUT NOW THAT
THERE'S BEEN
A BIG INCIDENT,
ALL THAT
RESENTMENT THAT
THEY'VE HELD
UNDER WRAPS
THIS WHOLE TIME
IS STARTING TO
BUBBLE UP
TO THE
SURFACE.

CALL
IT THE
UNINTENDED
BARRIERS
OF AN OVER-
COMPARTMENT-
TAILED
BUREAUCRACY.
OR CALL
IT PETTY
Turf-WARS
BETWEEN
REGIONAL
BARONS. IT'S
ESSENTIALLY
THE SAME
THING.

EVERYBODY'S
ACTING TO
MAKE THEIR
OWN MINISTRY
LOOK GOOD,
AND TO MAKE
DAMN SURE
OTHERS CAN'T
TRESPASS
ON THEIR
TERRITORY



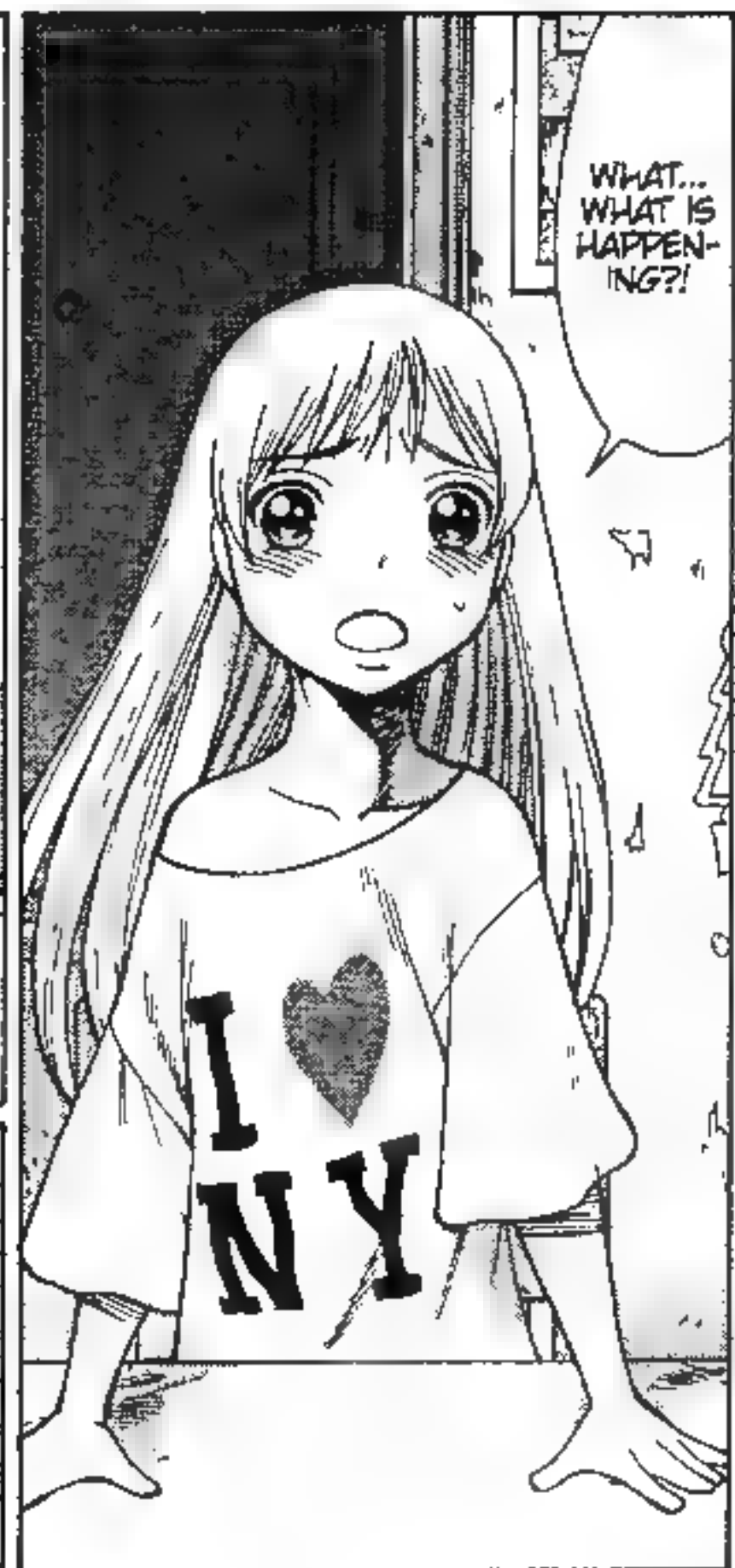
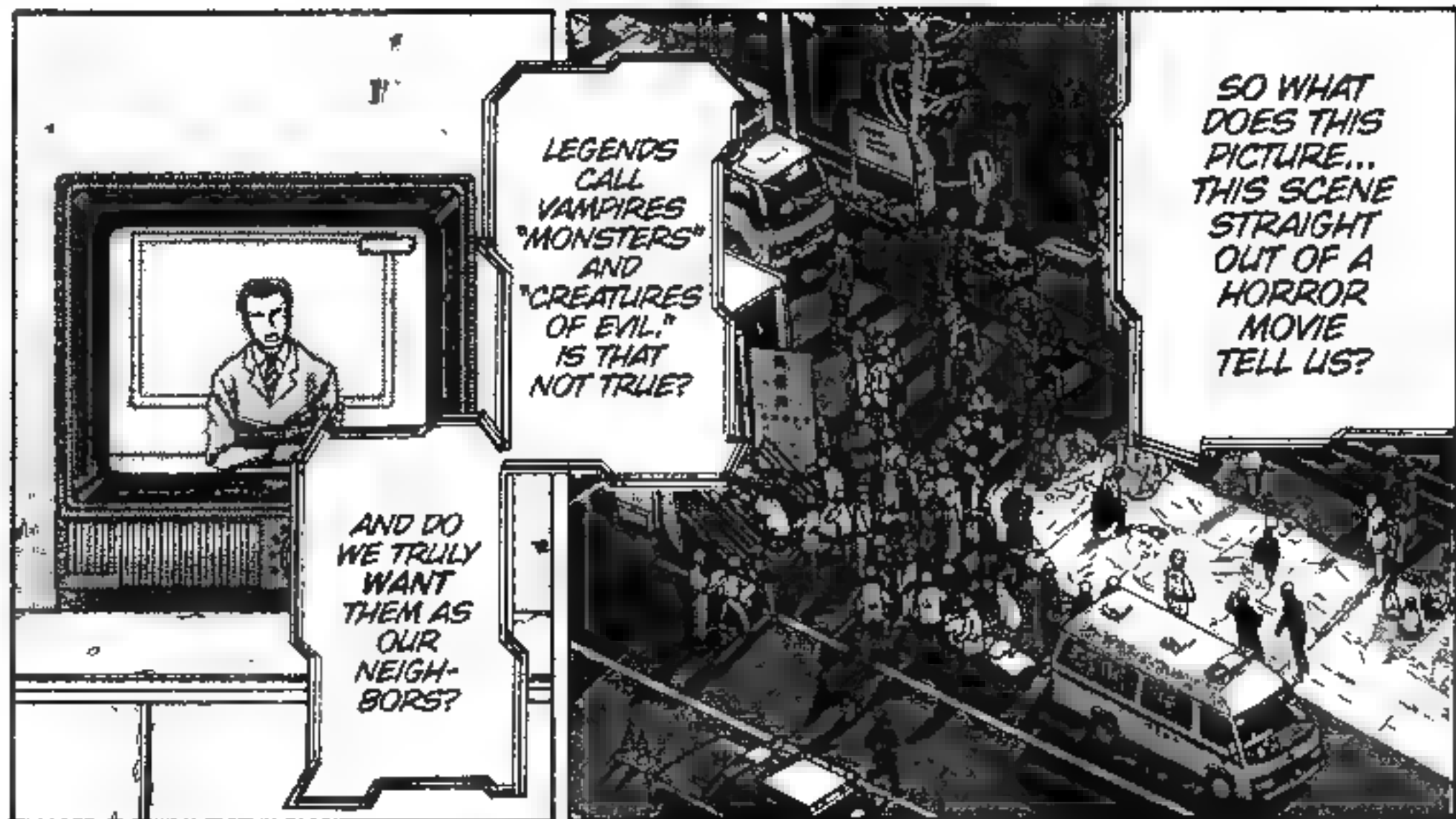
IT'S
ALL
TOO
NEAT.

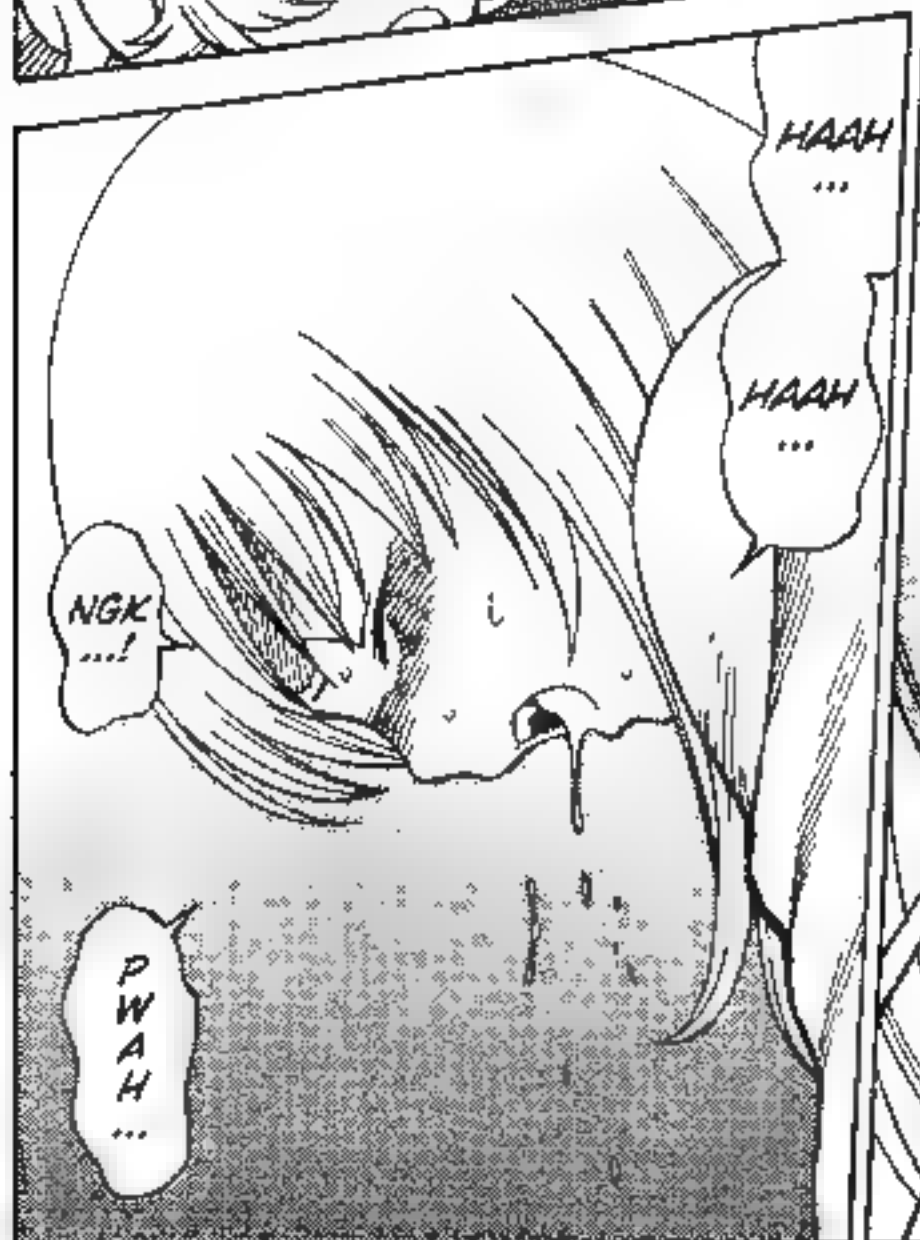
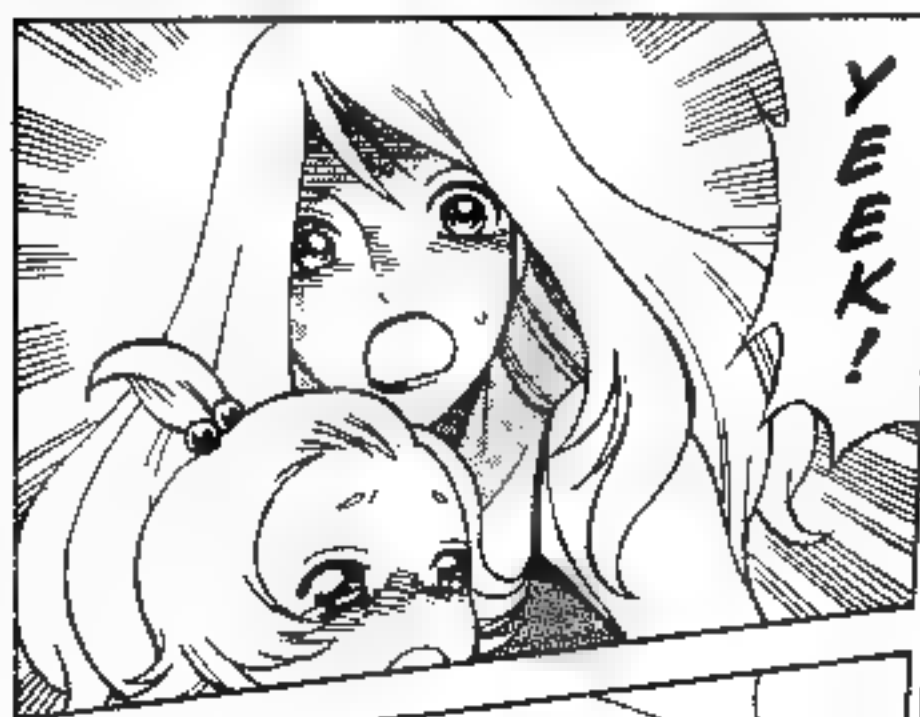
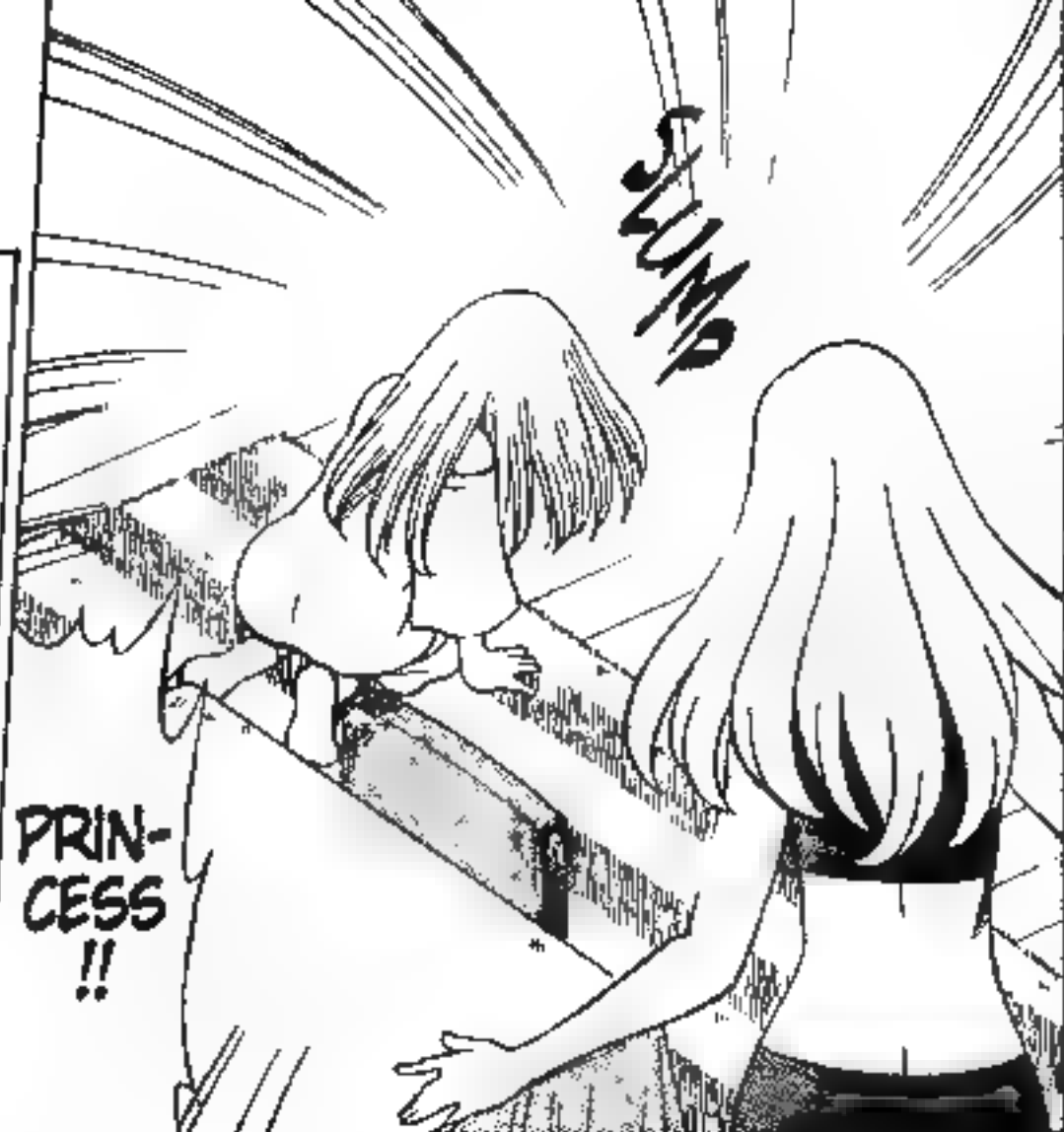
THE
VACUUM
SUCKING
BEOWULF
BEING ALL
THE WAY IN
GOODMAN
RUSSIA
JUST WHEN
WE NEED
THEM
BOTH

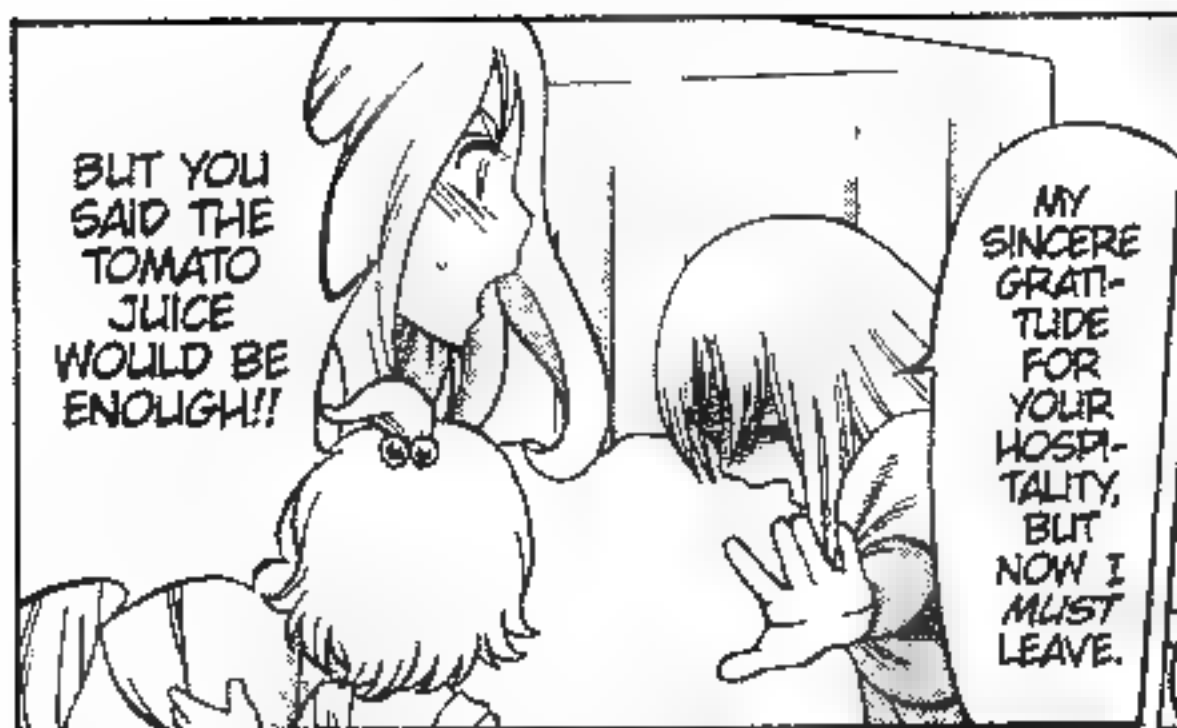


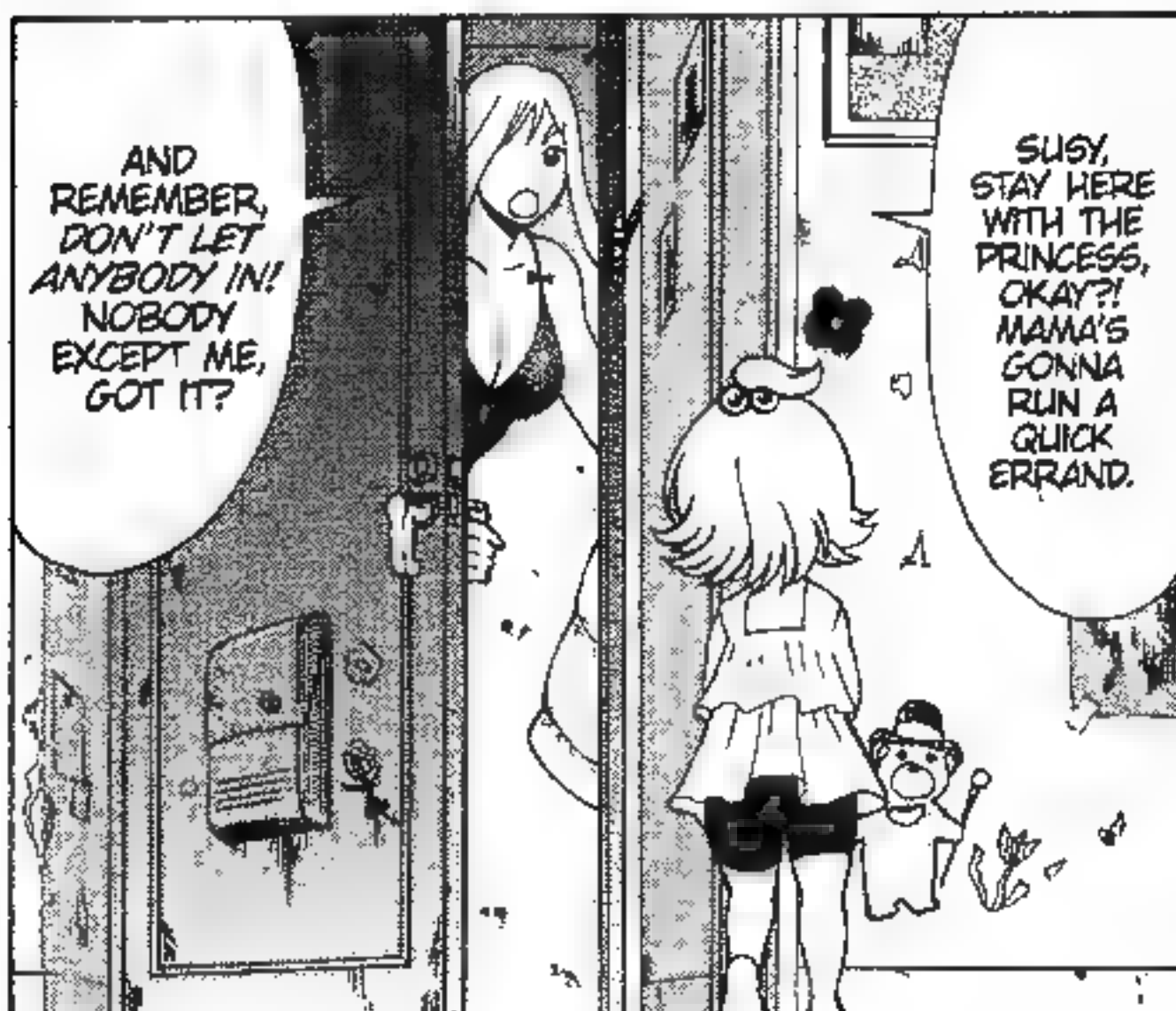
TOO
CONVENIENT.
IT'S
ALMOST LIKE
SOMEONE
PLANNED IT,
DON'T YOU
THINK?





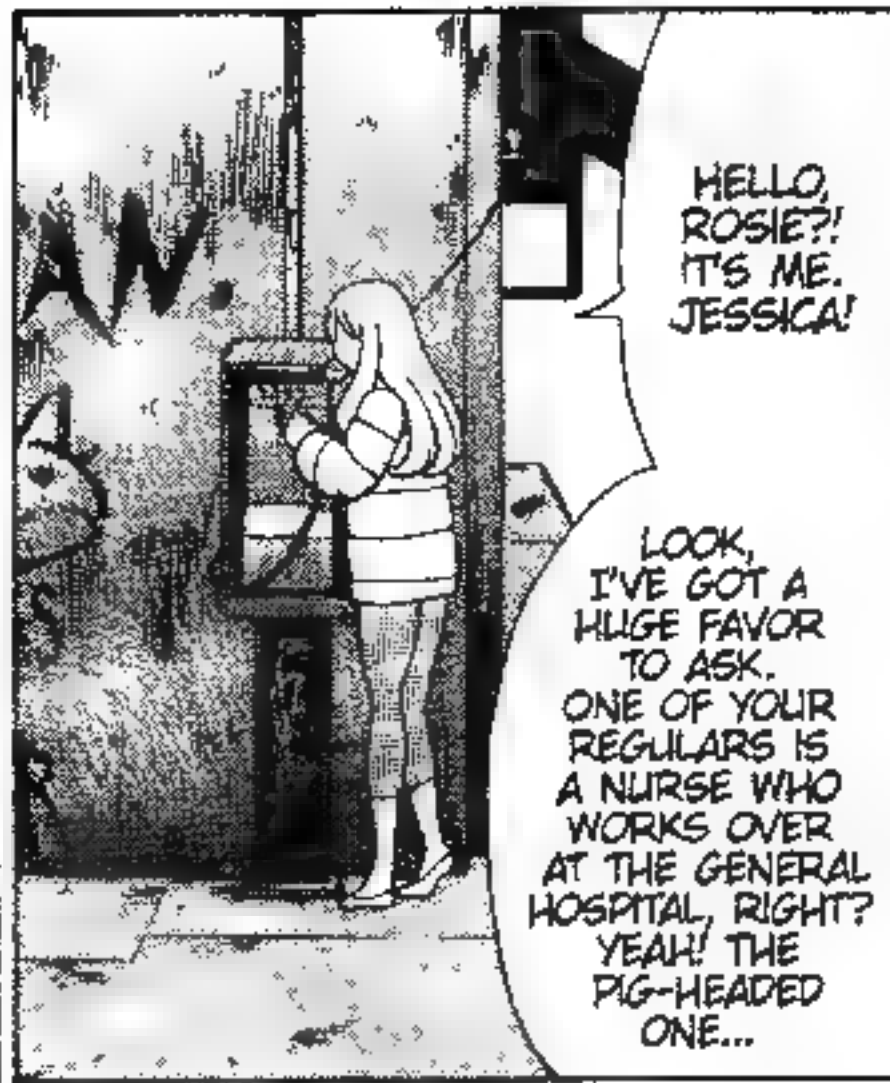








COULD
YOU SEE IF
YOU COULD
HAVE HIM
BRING ME
SOME-
THING?!



HELLO,
ROSIE?!
IT'S ME.
JESSICA!

LOOK,
I'VE GOT A
HUGE FAVOR
TO ASK.
ONE OF YOUR
REGULARS IS
A NURSE WHO
WORKS OVER
AT THE GENERAL
HOSPITAL, RIGHT?
YEAH! THE
PIG-HEADED
ONE...



WHY
WOULD
JESSICA
NEED
WHAT?

TOK



WHY
THE HELL
WOULD
JESSICA
NEED
ONE OF
THOSE
...?

GAWD
...



HAVEN'T
SEEN HER
AROUND
THE SHOP
LATELY.
SHE ISN'T
SICK,
IS SHE...?

SPEAKIN'
OF
JESSICA,
HOW IS
SHE?

N-
NO...



GABE...



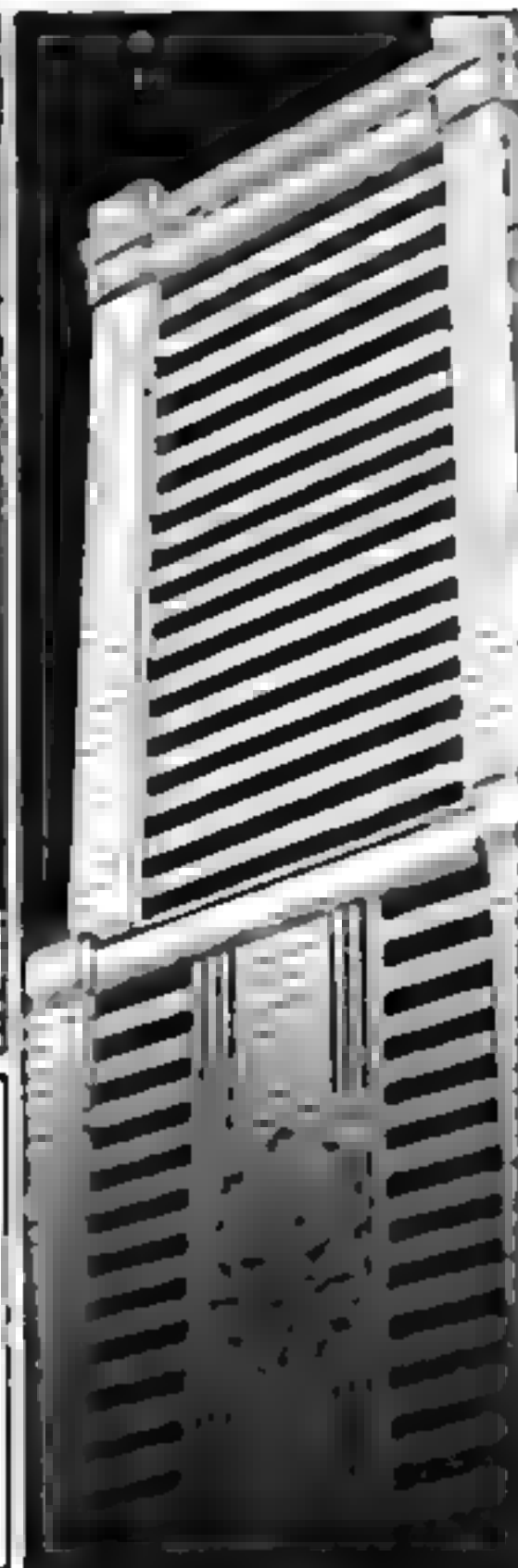
BUT SHE
SWITCHED
SHIFTS
WITH ME ALL
THOSE TIMES
I COULDN'T
COME IN,
SO I KINDA
OWE 'ER...

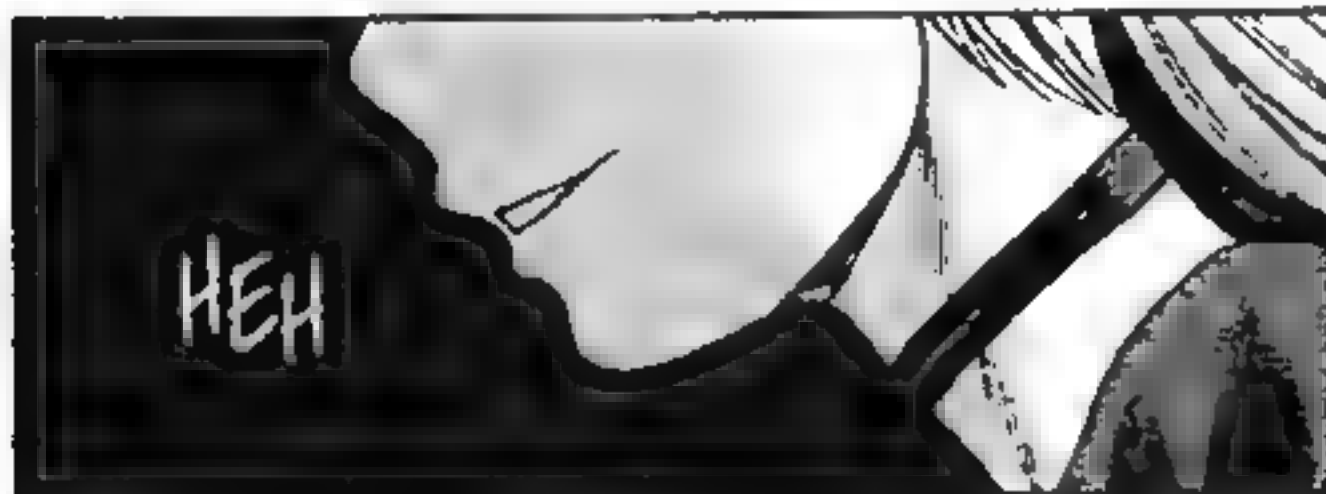


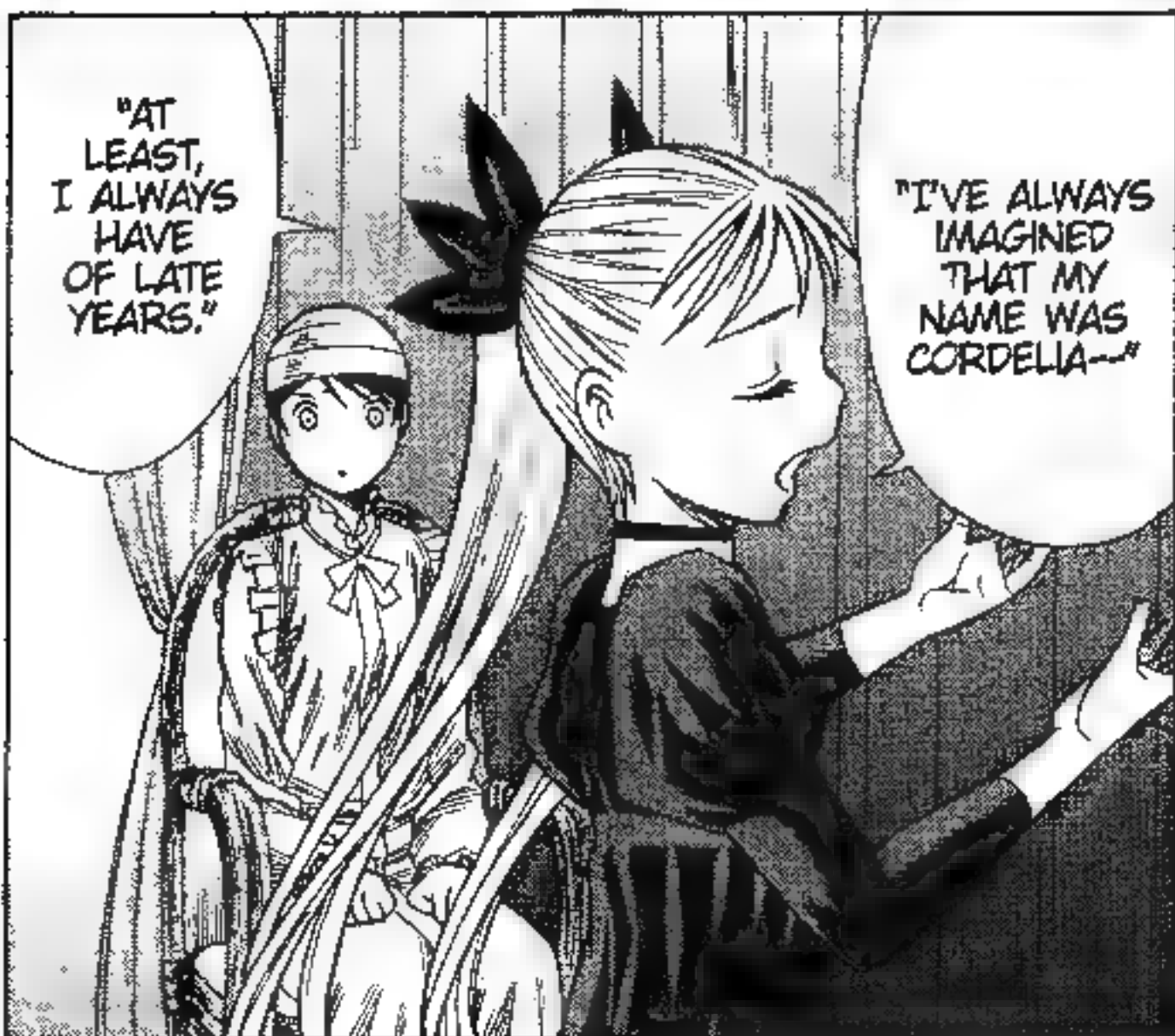
THE PEOPLE
AT THE
HOSPITAL
WATCH
THAT KINDA
STUFF CLOSE,
THOUGH.
I TOLD HER
IT WOULDN'T
BE
EASY..



T..TOOK A
COUPLE
PERSONAL
DAYS, IS ALL
NOW SHE'S
CALLIN' ME,
ASKIN' IF I
CAN GET
SOME BLOOD.
LIKE,
TRANSFUSION
PACKETS OR
SOMETHIN'.







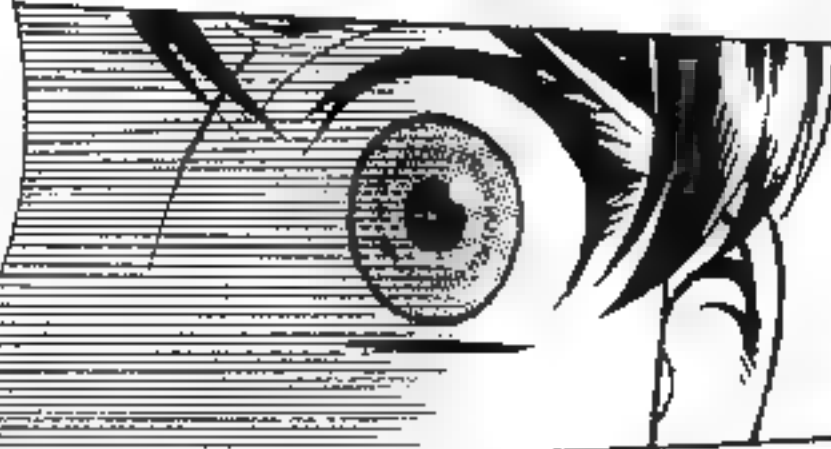


"PLEASE
CALL ME
ANNE
SPELLED
WITH AN
E."


"BUT
IF YOU
CALL ME
ANNE..."



"IT
LOOKS SO
MUCH
NICER."



"WHEN YOU
HEAR A NAME
PRONOUNCED,
CAN'T YOU
ALWAYS SEE IT
IN YOUR MIND,
JUST AS IF IT
WAS PRINTED
OUT?"



"I
CAN."

Anne

"BUT
A-N-N-E
LOOKS
SO MUCH
MORE
DISTIN-
GUISHED."


Anne

"AND
A-N-N
LOOKS
DREADFUL
..."



"IF
YOU'LL
ONLY
CALL ME
ANNE
SPELLED
WITH AN
E..."

"I SHALL
TRY TO
RECONCILE
MYSELF TO
NOT BEING
CALLED
CORDELIA."



HOW
CARELESS
OF ME.

IT
WASN'T
ANNE
FRANK.
IT WAS
ANNE OF
GREEN
GABLES...

I SKIMMED
THE BOOK,
OF COURSE.
I NEEDED TO
IN ORDER TO
DEEPEN MY
UNDERSTANDING
OF YOUR
RELATIONSHIP
WITH MINA.



HEH
HEH...
HARD TO
BELIEVE,
ISN'T
IT?

BUT THE STORY
WAS SO SICKENINGLY
SWEET AND MIND-
NUMBINGLY INSIPID
THAT I MUST HAVE
UNCONSCIOUSLY PURGED
IT FROM MY MIND
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

YOUR
VAPID
LITTLE
FANGIRL
HOBBY...

HER
THOUGHT
PROCESSES.
HER
MEMORIES.
HER FONDEST
HOPES AND
DREAMS.
I MEMORIZED
THEM ALL.

I WENT TO
SUCH GREAT
LENGTHS TO
RE-EXPERIENCE
ALL OF THE
MOUNTAINS OF
DATA WE
SCANNED OUT
OF MINA'S
LITTLE
BRAIN...



NEVER DID
I EXPECT
SOMETHING
SO TRIVIAL
TO POSE
ANY KIND
OF THREAT
TO ME...

I BELIEVED
I HAD
BECOME MINA
COMPLETELY.
SEAMLESSLY.
ALL THAT
EFFORT...
AND WHAT
EXPOSES
ME?





SO I
KNOW ALL
ABOUT
THAT LITTLE
SOS
YOU TRIED
TO SEND TO
AKIRA...



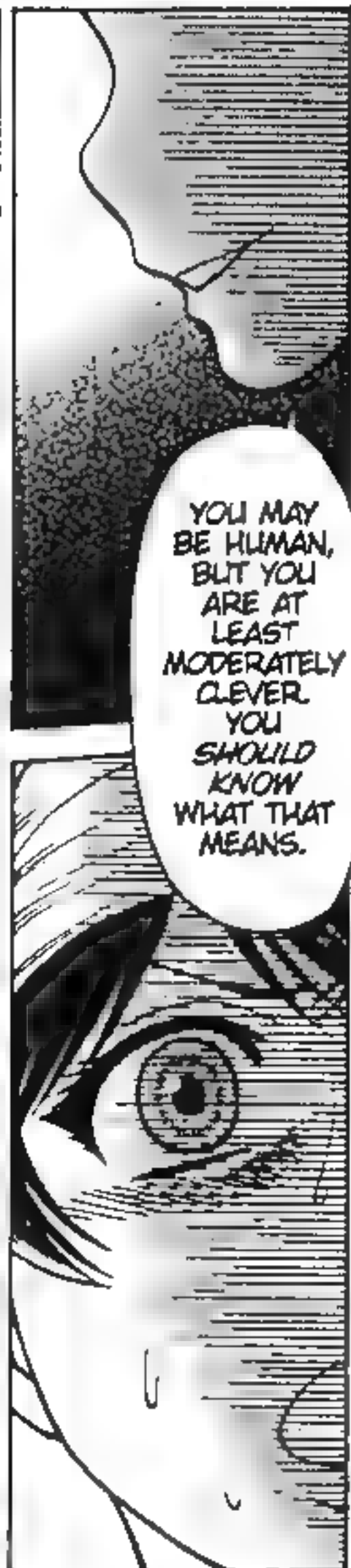
YOU
THOUGHT
YOU GOT
OUT,
DIDN'T
YOU?

YET
HERE YOU
ARE...
STILL
RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF IT.



SHE
EXPRESSED IT
QUITE WELL
WHEN SHE TOLD
YOU THAT HERE,
THERE IS A
PLACE THAT
WILL DEVOUR
THE WEAK,
ALL THE WAY
DOWN TO THE
VERY MARROW
OF THEIR
BONES.

THAT ONE
WOMAN,
WHAT WAS
HER
NAME...?
TATIANNNA.



YOU MAY
BE HUMAN,
BUT YOU
ARE AT
LEAST
MODERATELY
CLEVER.
YOU
SHOULD
KNOW
WHAT THAT
MEANS.

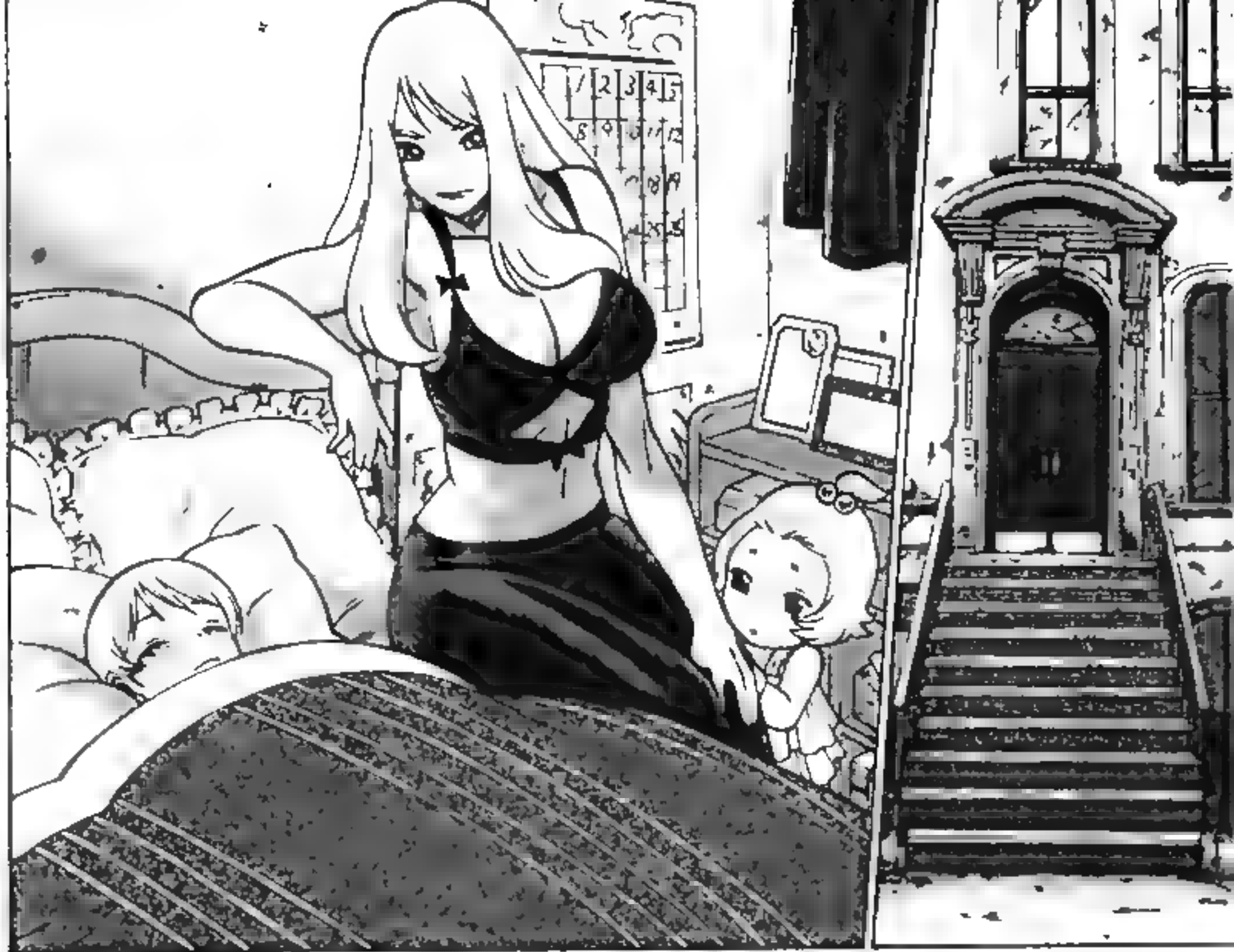


HOW
BEST
TO
COOK
YOU...

NOW...



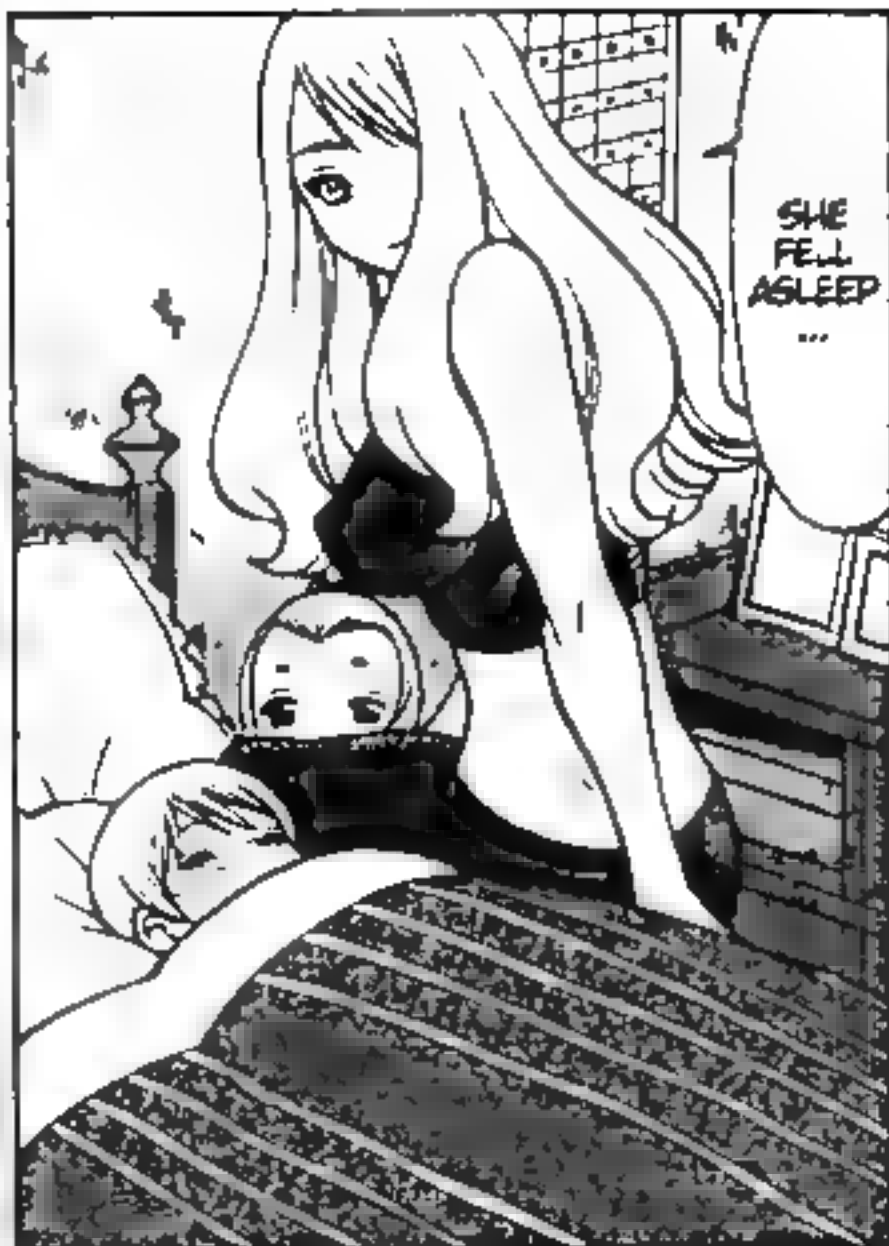
Chapter 59: Skyscraper Blues



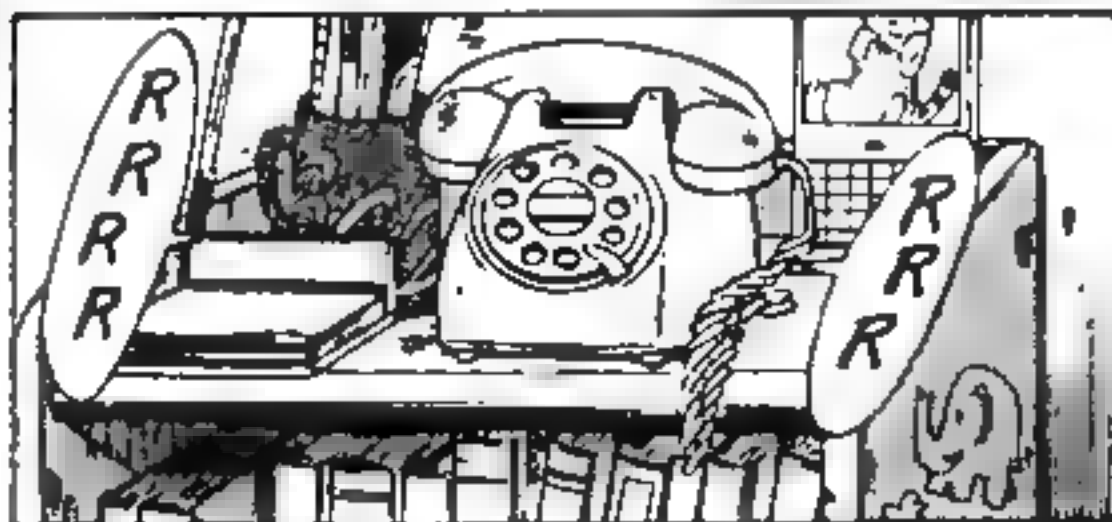




POOR
THING,
SHE STILL
LOOKS
SO
WORN...



SHE
FELL
ASLEEP
...



BE GOOD
AND KEEP
AN EYE ON
THE
PRINCESS,
OKAY?
AND IF
ANYBODY
COMES,
WHATEVER
YOU DO...

SUSY!
MAMA'S
GOTTA
RUN
ANOTHER
ERRAND.



HELLO?
ROSIE?!

DO
YOU
HAVE
IT?!



I'LL
COME
AND GET
IT RIGHT
AWAY.
WHERE
CAN I
FIND
YOU?!

WHAT,
NOW?
SERI-
OUSLY?!
ROSIE,
YOU'RE
THE
BEST!



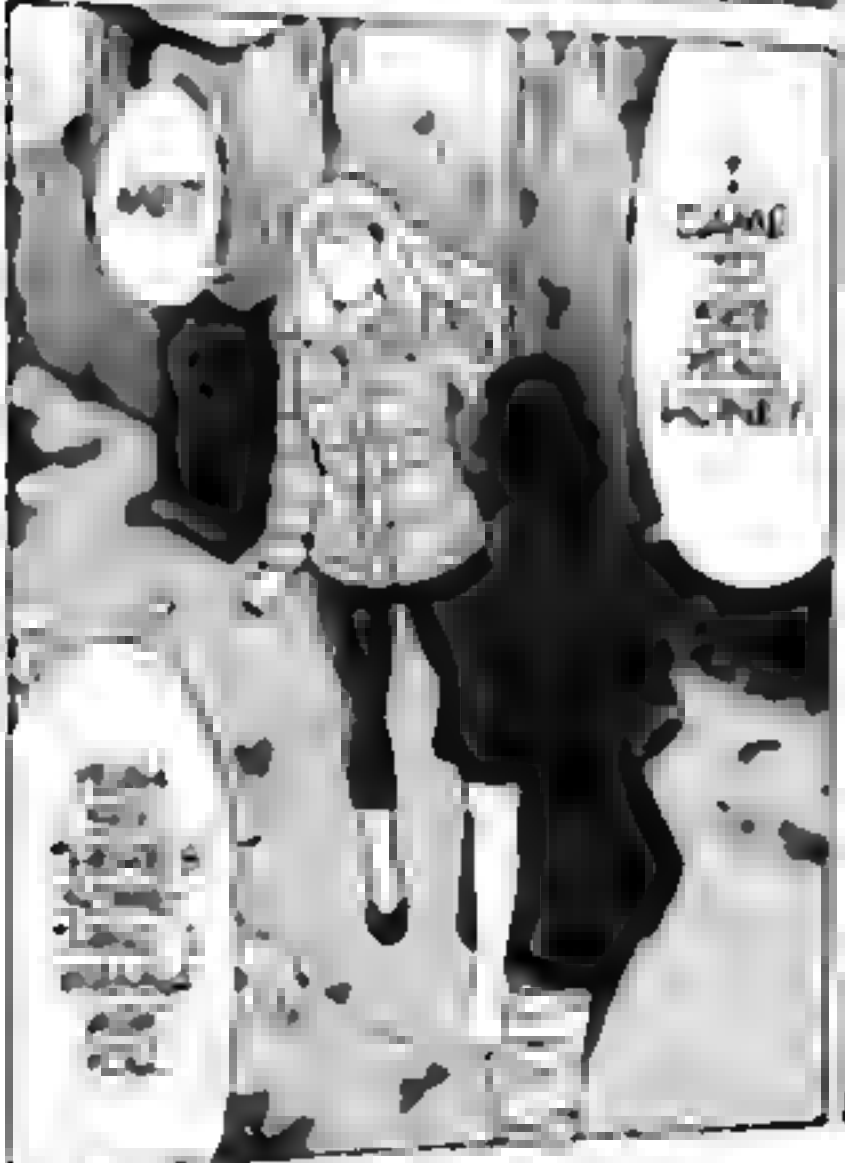


THERE
JESSICA



GAH

SHOCKED



CAME
FIGHTING
JESSICA

3

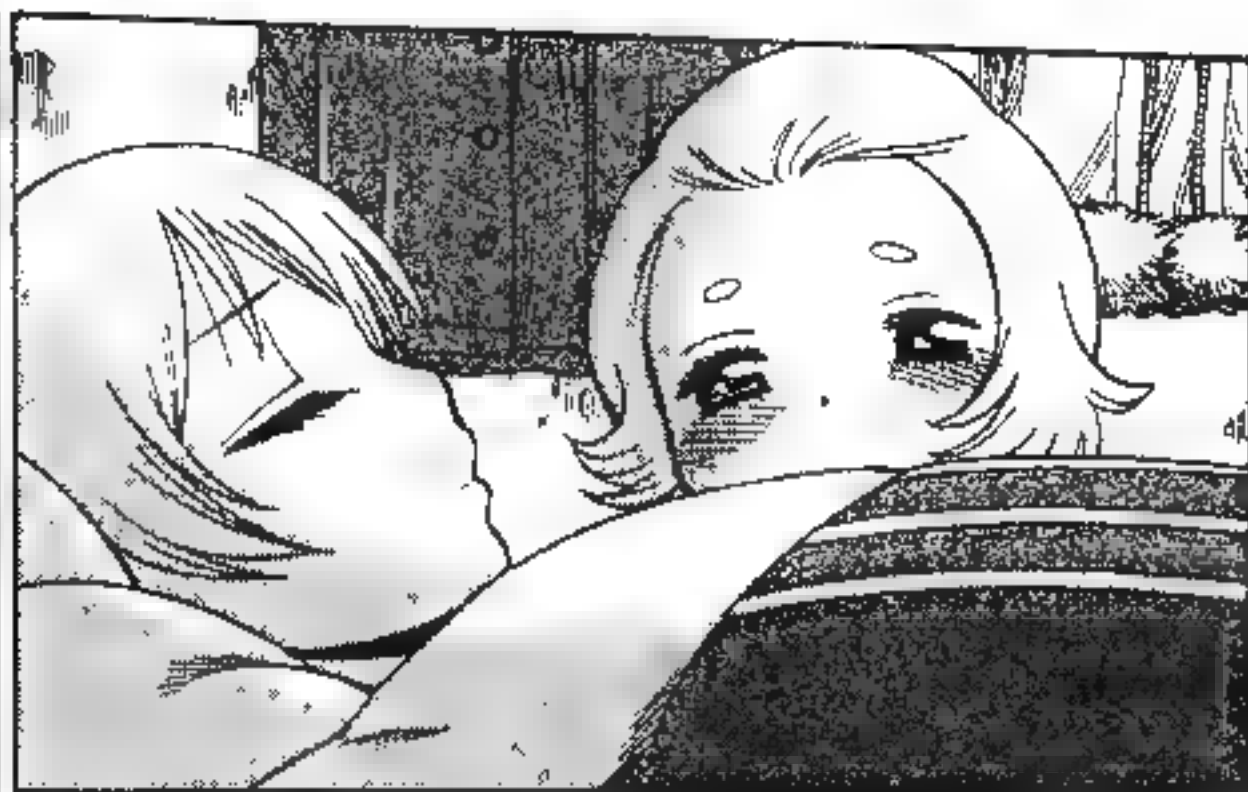
SHOCKED

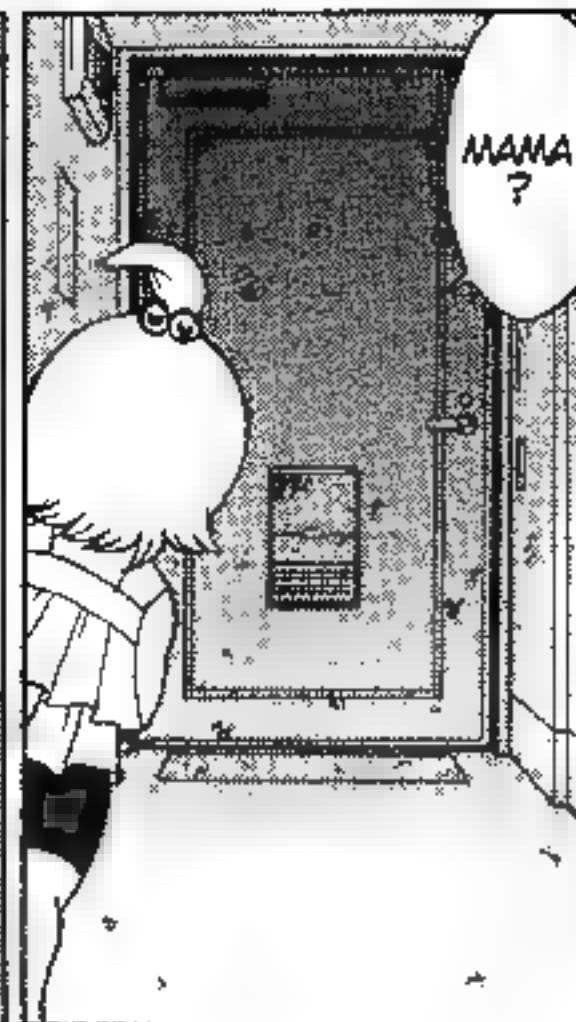


I
WANT
TO
KNOW
WHAT
YOU
ARE
THINKING
ABOUT

SHOCKED
JESSICA







BUT YEE.
I'M NOT A
STRANGER
YOUR MAMA
ASKED ME TO
COME AND
GET YOU

WE...
ARENT YOU
A GOLD
LITTLE GIRL
SUNSHY.
GOLD
CHILDREN
ALWAYS LISTEN
TO WHAT
THEIR MAMAS
SAY

BUT

SHE SAID
NOT TO
JOIN THE
WAR

YES
YOU ARE
A VERY
GOLD GIRL
I THINK
I LOVE
YOU



HI
THERE,
SUSY.

YOU'RE
EVEN
PRETTIER
THAN I
THOUGHT.





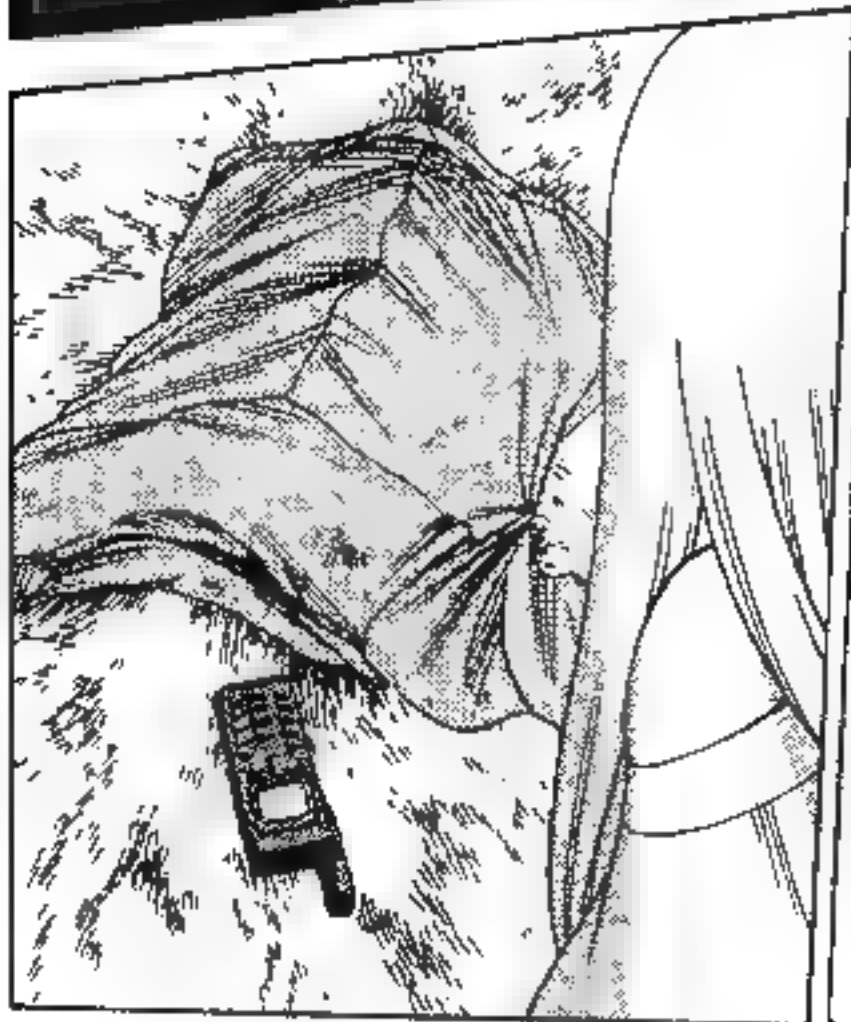


TAKE
YOUR
HANDS
OFF OF
HER!!





DAMN!



COME
BACK
HERE

NNPH



I MAY
BE ABLE
TO GET
THROUGH
TO THE
BUND...

THIS...
COULD
WORK.



A
SATELLITE
PHONE...



UNTIL THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER CAN BE DETERMINED, THE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION WILL RETAIN THE GIRL AS A PERSON OF INTEREST.

NEW EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT OF HER MAJESTY'S POISONING BY NANOMACHINES HAS ARISEN. THIS EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THE HUMAN GIRL MAY HAVE BEEN MORE INVOLVED THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED.

WHAT THE HELL?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YUKI'S UNDER ARREST?!



AND IT WAS HER MAJESTY HERSELF WHO DECLARED THE NEED FOR THE CASE TO BE REOPENED AND RE-EXAMINED.

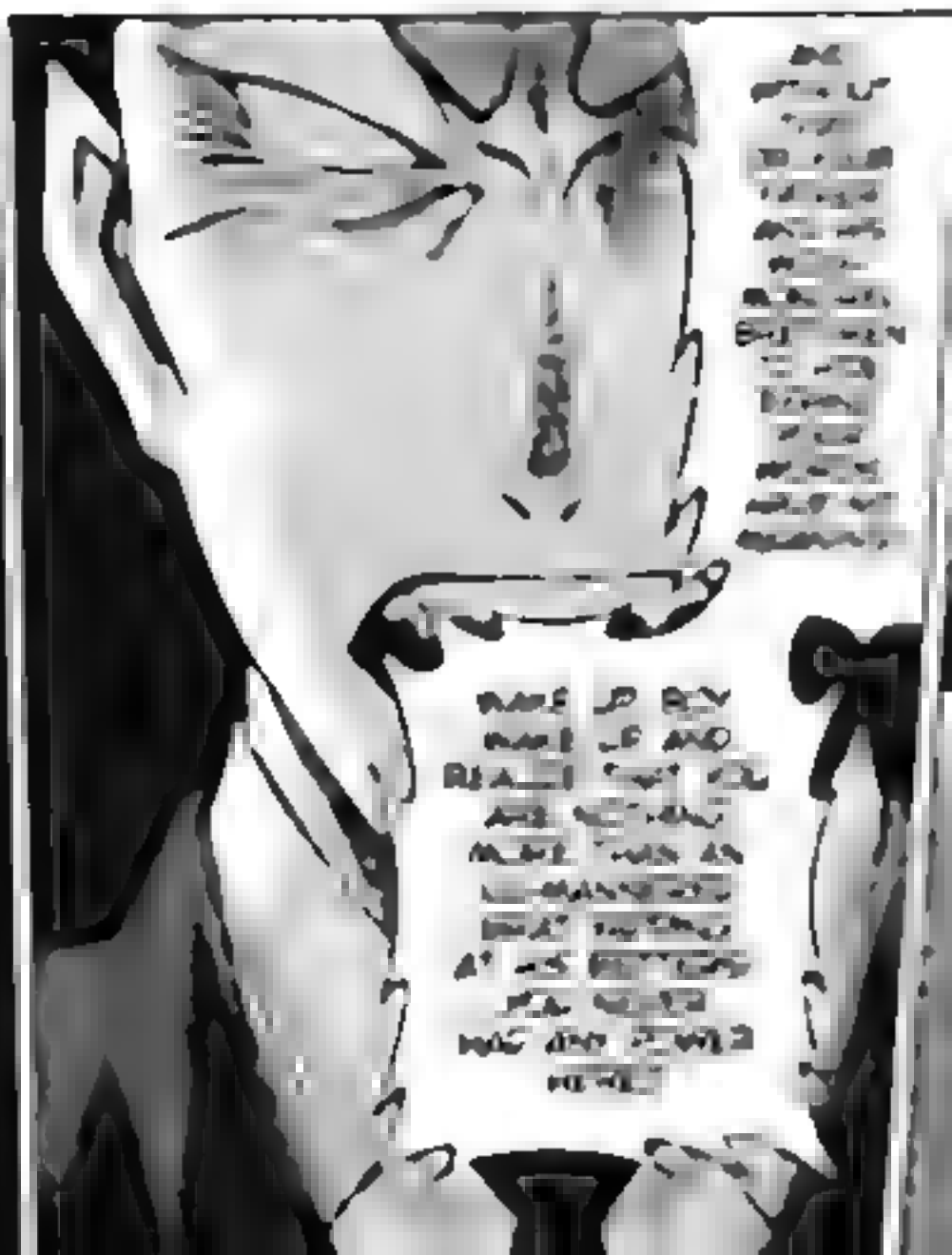


WHAT ...?!



YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL HERE?! THAT CASE WAS CLOSED AND BURIED AGES AGO. HIME-SAN HERSELF STOOD WITNESS TO YUKI'S INNOCENCE!







A...

HELLO
...?

HELLO
?

HELLOOO?
IS
ANYBODY
THERE?

A...

THIS IS
KABURAGI
AKIRA'S
CELL
PHONE.

A...



HIME-
SAN,
ARE
YOU
THERE
?!

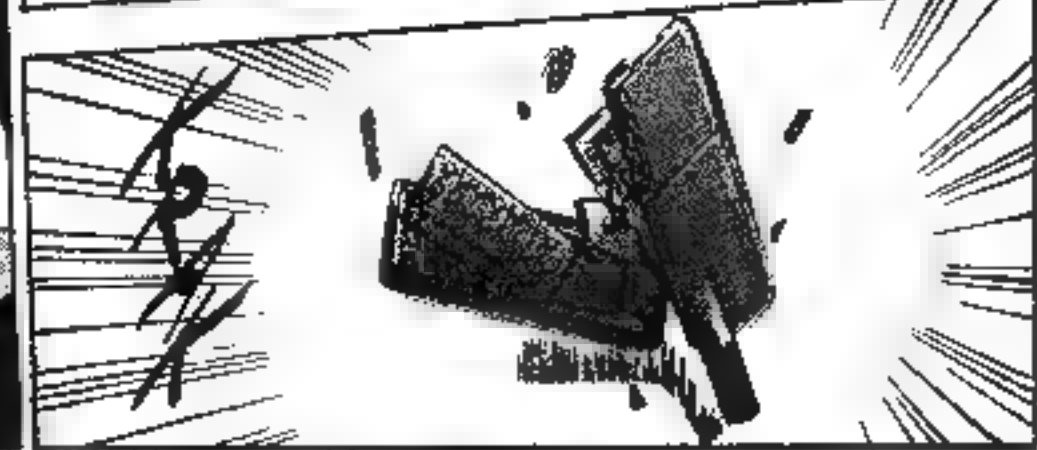
WHAT'S
WRONG?!
WHERE
ARE YOU
CALLING
FROM?!



HIME-
SAN?



AKIRAAA!!





THE
HELL
...?









THE
HONOR OF
THE EARTH
CLAN
WEEPS
AT THE
TACTICS
YOU USE
HERE
TODAY.

SO,
YOU ARE
ONE OF
HIS
WERE-
WOLVES,
HM?




HOWEVER,
YOUR
POWER IS
GREAT,
YOUR
MAJESTY,
AND WE
FEAR IT
MUCH.

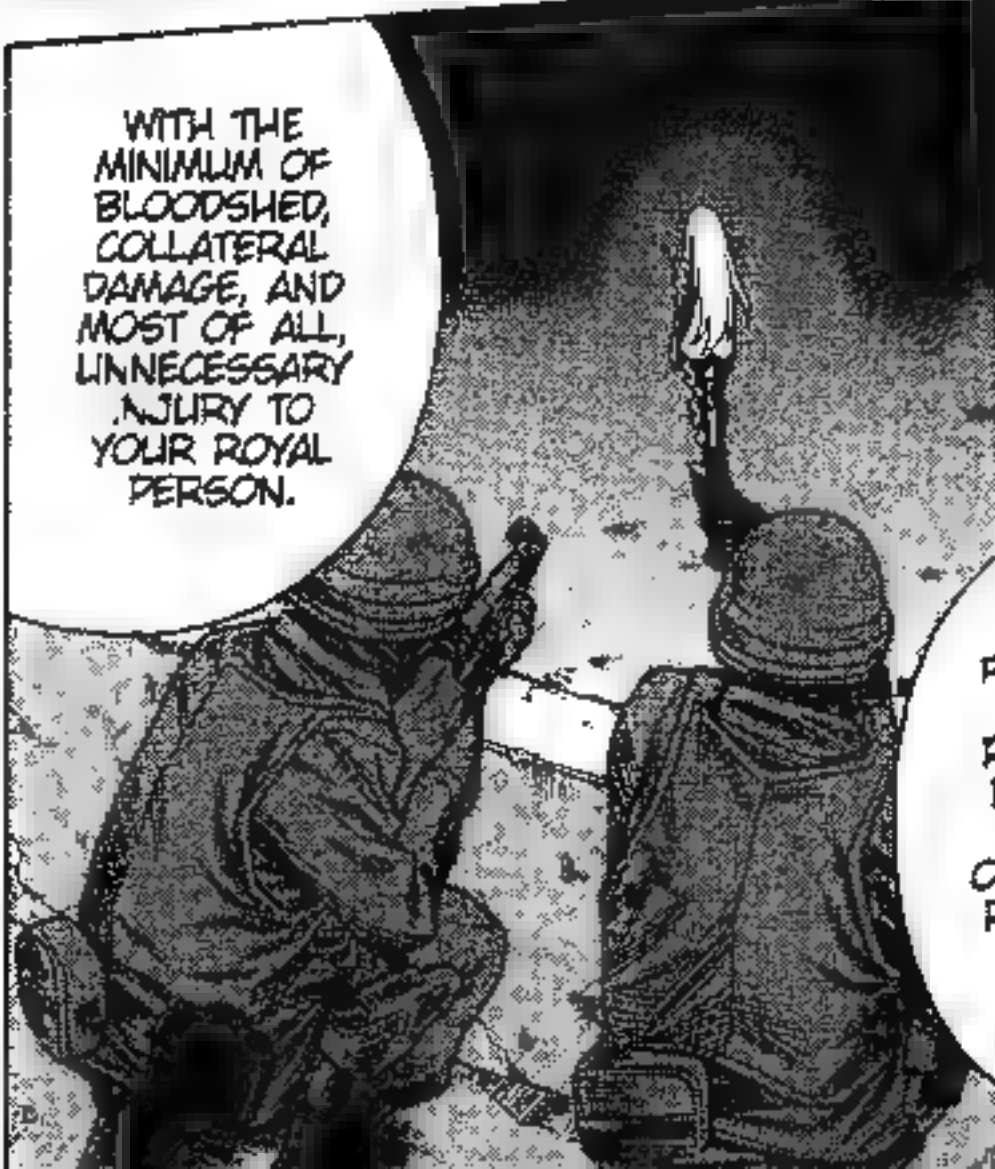
YOUR
WORDS
ARE
TRUTH,
YOUR
MAJESTY.
IT PAINS
ME TO
HEAR
THEM...



I HAVE
COME
AT HIS
ORDERS,
TO ESCORT
YOUR
MAJESTY
BACK
TO HIS
DOMAIN.




MY NAME
IS GERHARD
FREEMAN.
I HAVE THE
HONOR OF
SERVING AS
GUARD AND
RETAINER TO
MY LORD,
DUKE
ROZENMANN.

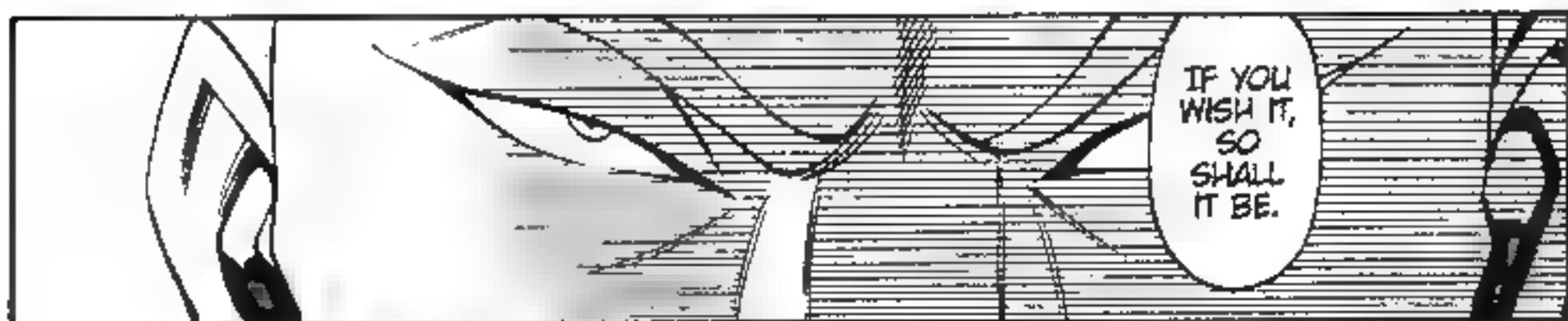


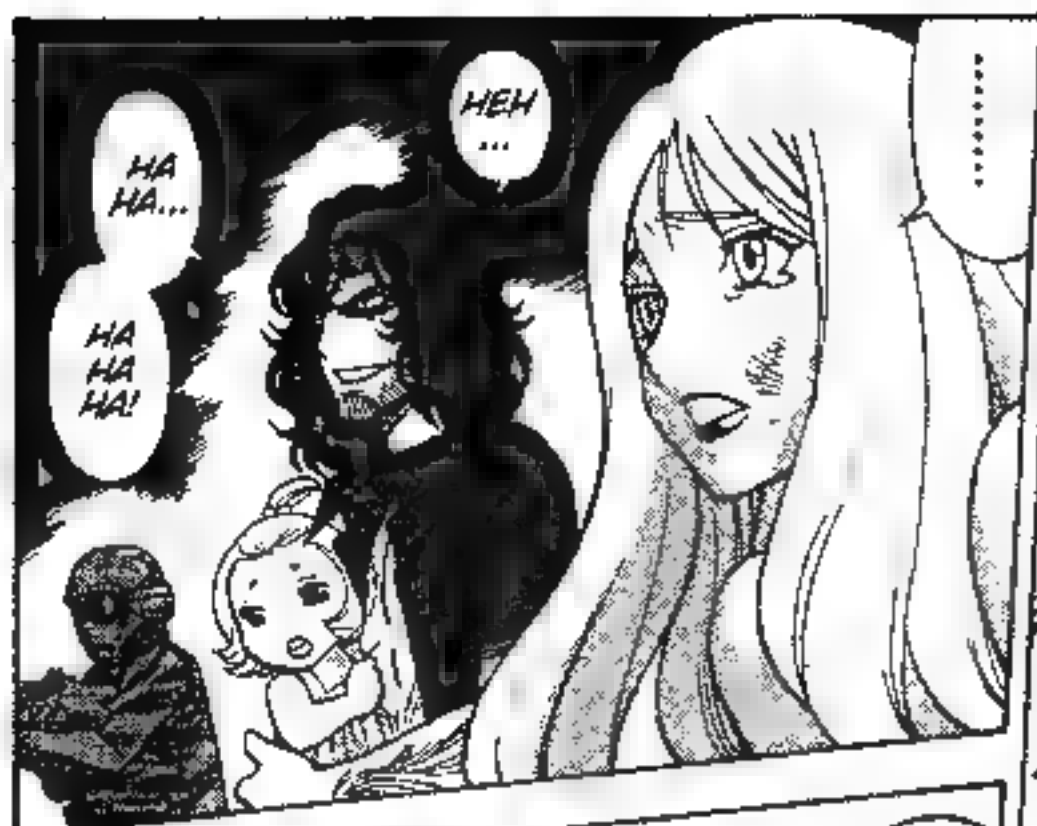
WITH THE
MINIMUM OF
BLOODSHED,
COLLATERAL
DAMAGE, AND
MOST OF ALL,
UNNECESSARY
INJURY TO
YOUR ROYAL
PERSON.

WAS IN
FACT THE
MOST
PRUDENT
PATH TO
TAKE IN
ORDER TO
RESOLVE
THIS
ISSUE...



THUS,
IT WAS
DEEMED
THAT THIS
STRATEGY,
COWARDLY
THOUGH
IT MAY
SEEM...





HA
HA...

HA
HA
HA!

HEH
...

I MUST
ADMIT,
I AM
WEARY OF
RUNNING.

THERE
IS
JUST
ONE
THING.

I HAVE
NOT FED
IN DAYS,
AND MY
HUNGER
IS FIT TO
DRIVE ME
MAD.

IF I
GUESS
CORRECTLY,
A VERY
LONG,
ARDUOUS
JOURNEY
AWAITS ME.

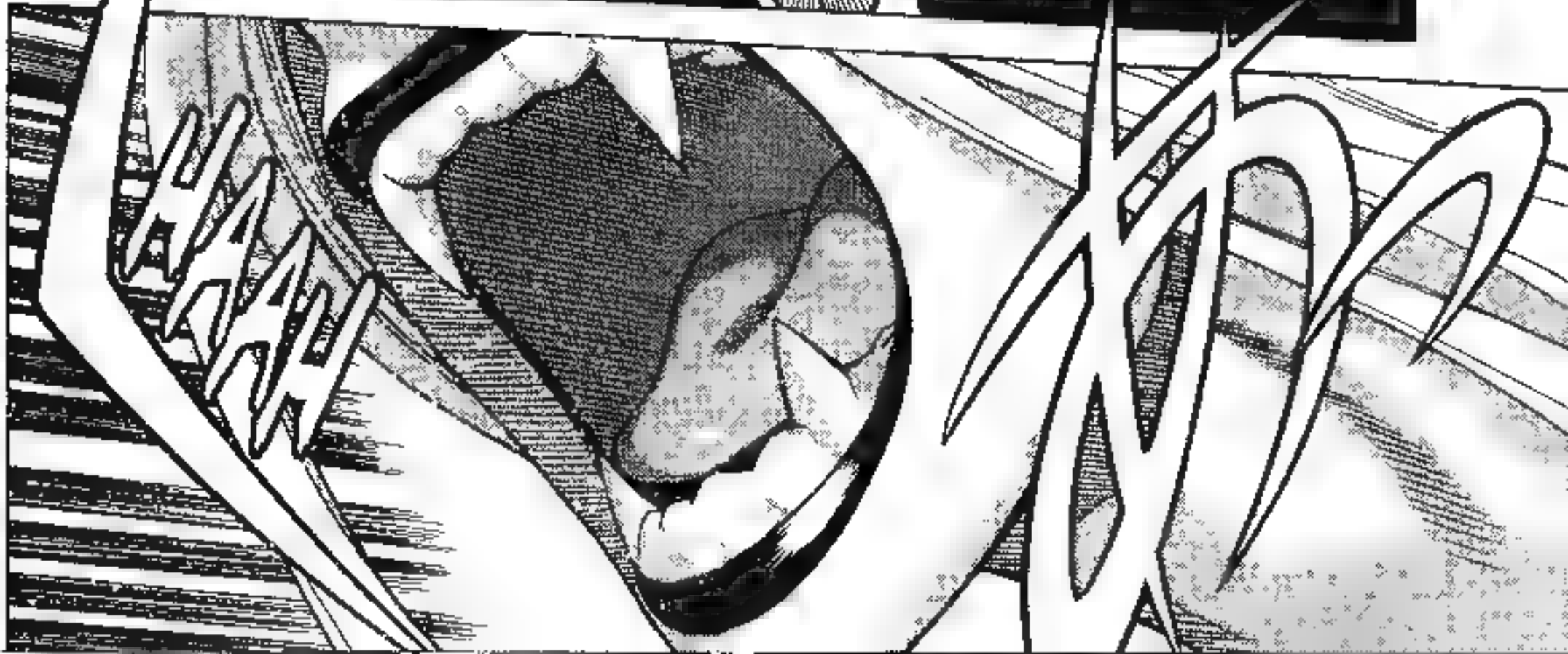
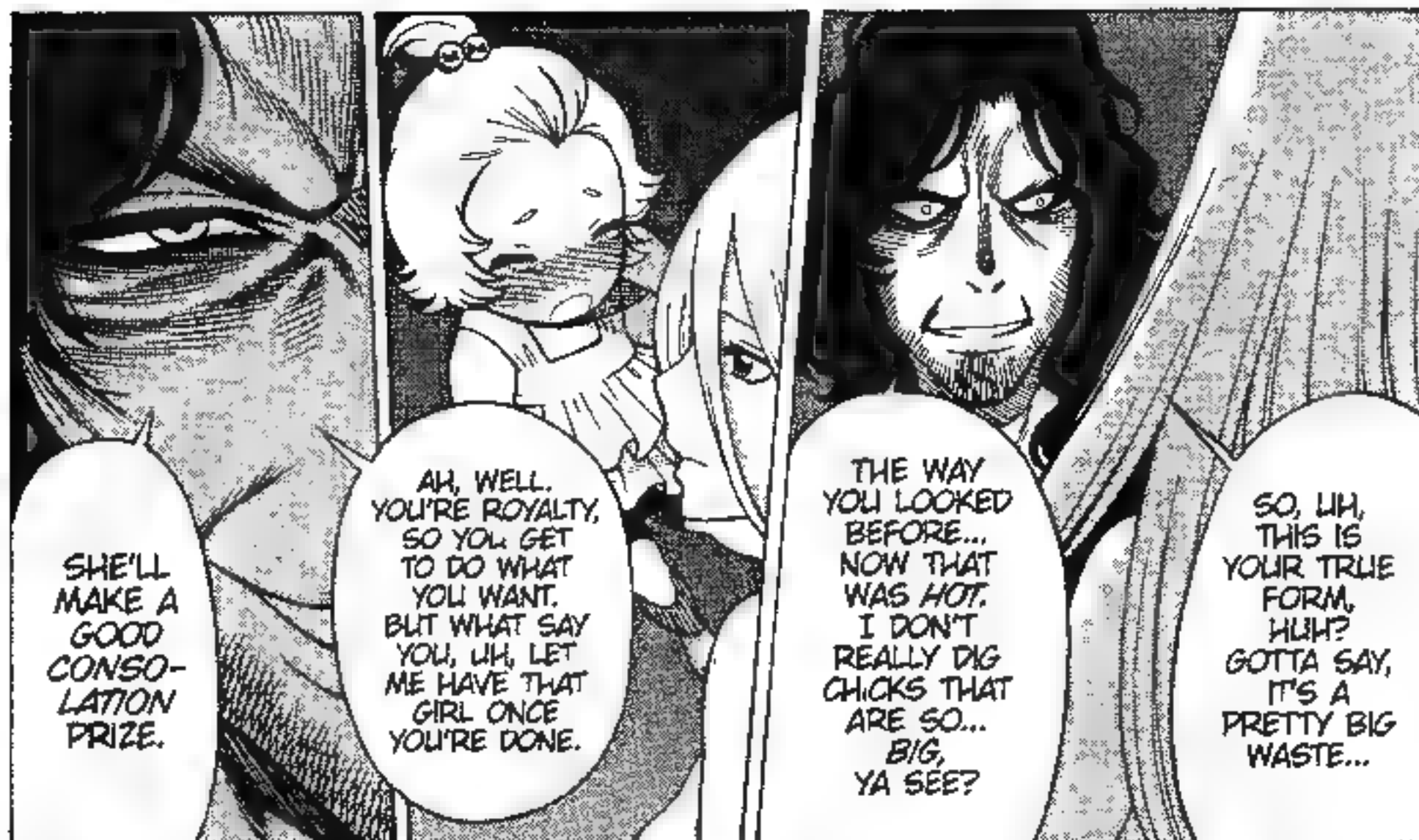
DO AS
YOU
WILL.

AS
YOU
WISH,
YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY.

I
SHOULD
LIKE TO
SLAKE
MY
THIRST.

BE-
FORE
WE
DEPART
...











GO HOME.

GO HOME,
AND FORGET
YOU EVER
MET ME.



LOOK,
AND
SEE
WELL.

THIS IS
WHAT IT
MEANS TO
BE A
VAMPIRE.
THIS IS
WHAT YOU
ATTEMPTED
TO PROTECT
WITH YOUR
FEEBLE
HUMAN
LIFE...



EEP
...



PRINCESS
...



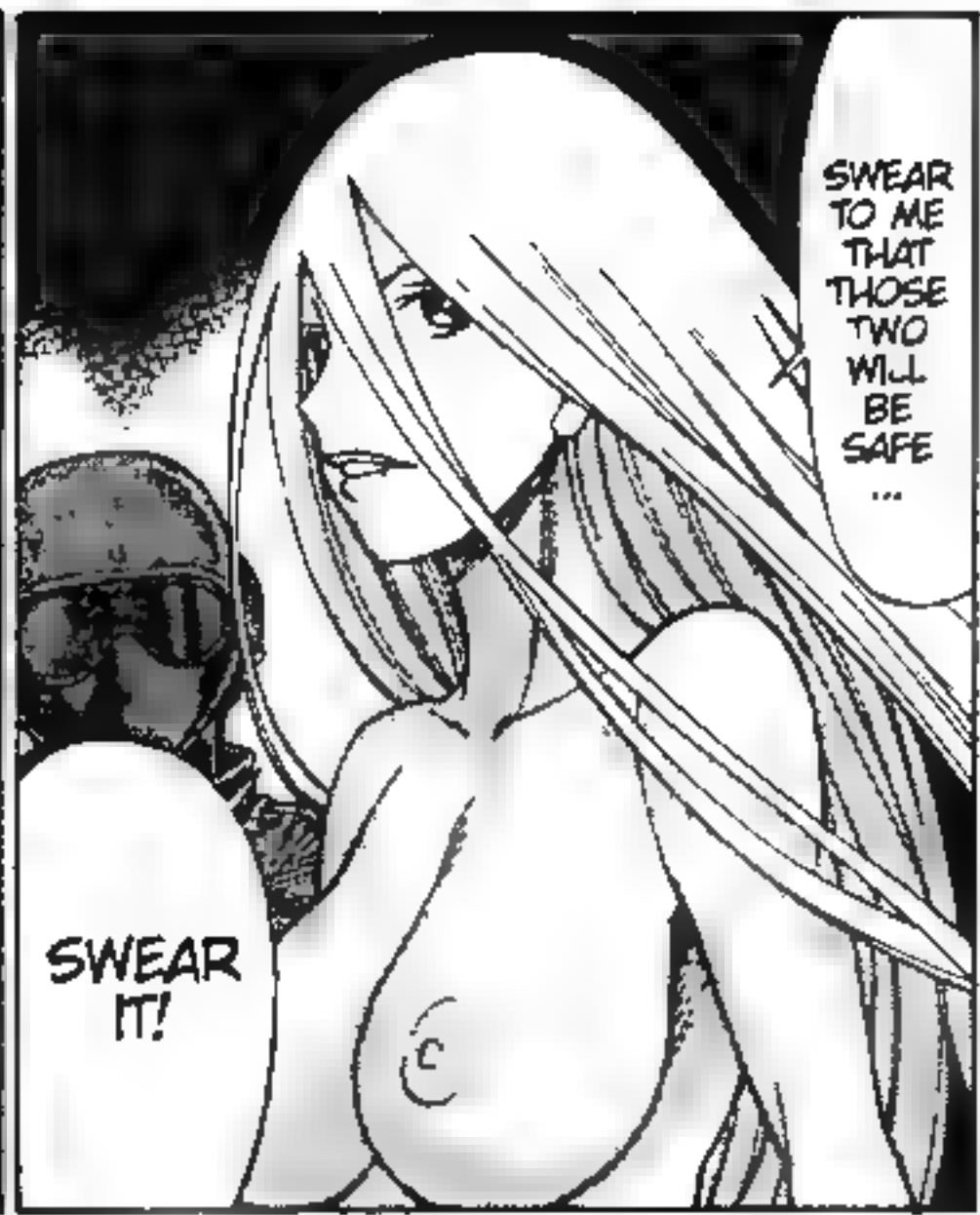
—WUMCZHU—

AND
TAKE
GOOD
CARE
OF
YOUR
CHILD.

RE
WELL

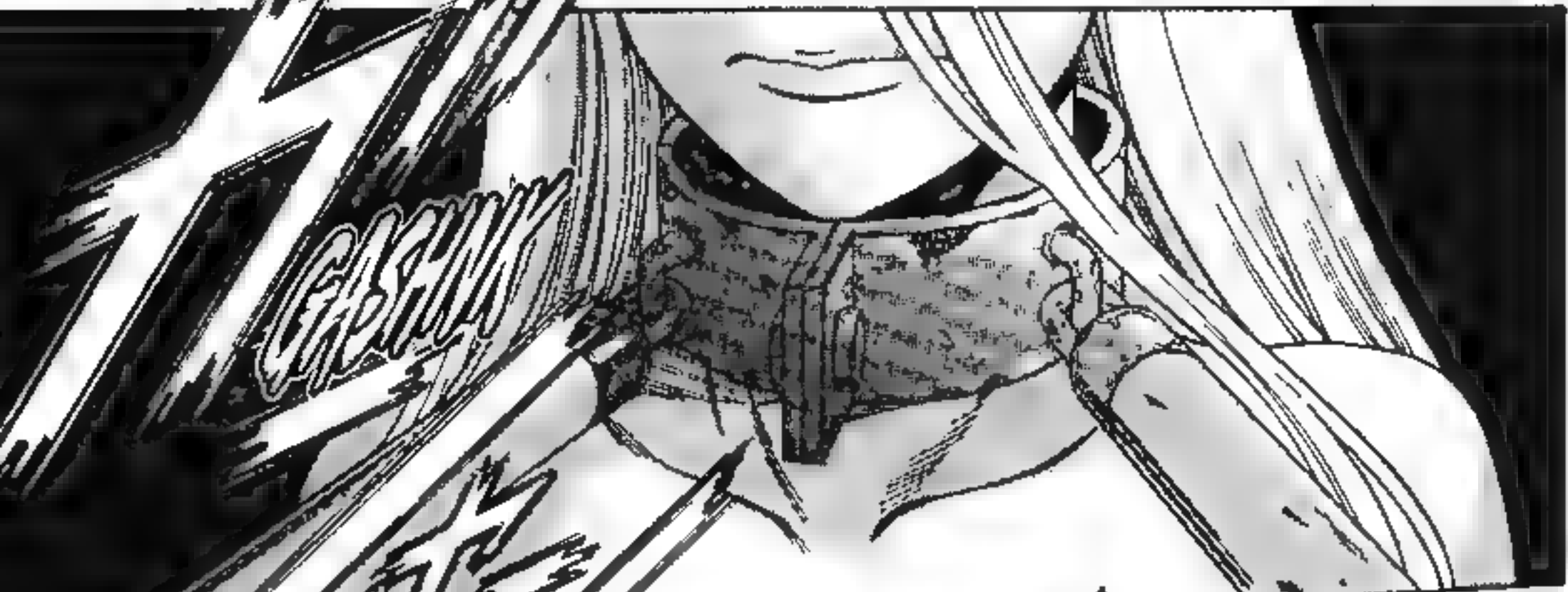


I SWEAR
UPON THE
HONOR
OF MY
HOUSE AND
MY CLAN
THAT THEY
SHALL BE
UNHARMED.



SWEAR
TO ME
THAT
THOSE
TWO
WILL
BE
SAFE
...

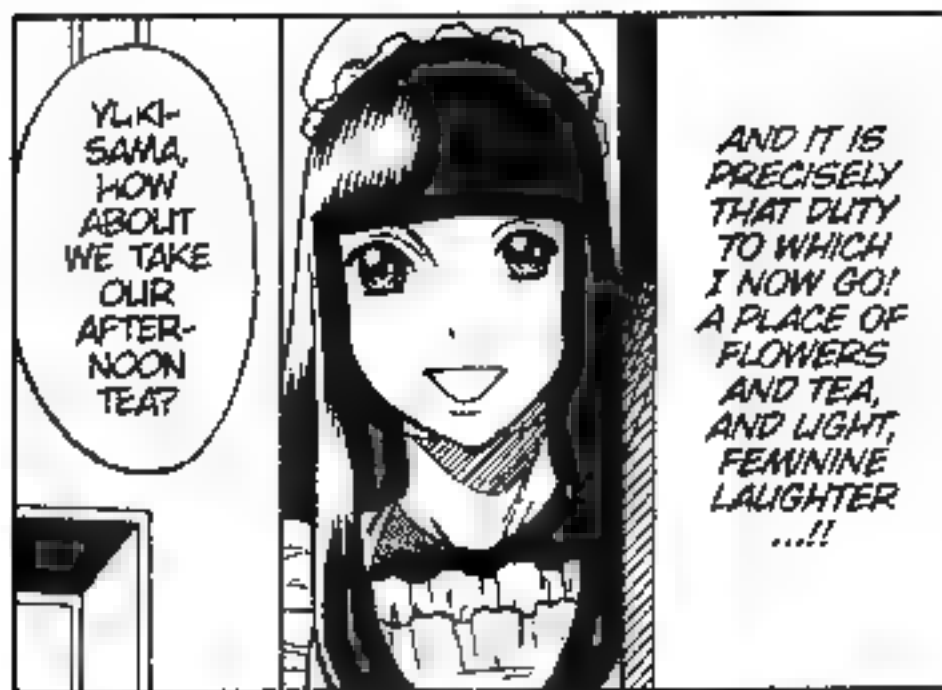
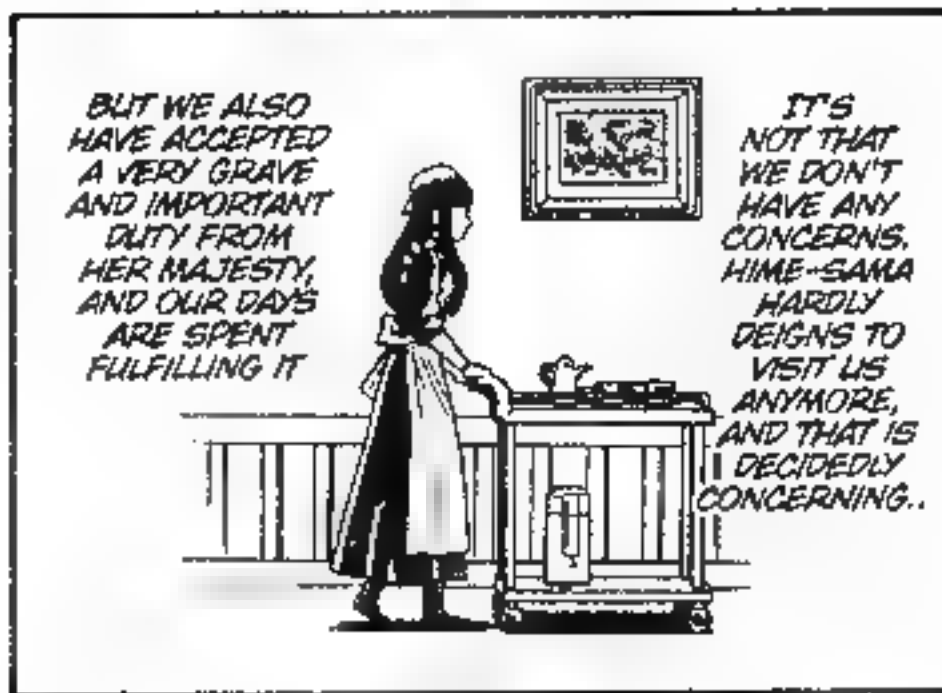
SWEAR
IT!





TO BE CONTINUED!!

Dance In The Vampire Blood



DANCE with the VAMPIRE MAID





THEY MUST HAVE THOUGHT WE WERE REMNANTS OF THE SPANISH ARMADA, SEE, AND SO GAVE US NO CHANCE FOR PARLAY!

AND SO THE CANNON BARRAGE FROM THE BRITISH FRIGATE RIPPED RIGHT INTO OUR GALLEON, FULL BROADSIDE!



MY LORD SENATORS!!

AH, YOUR PARDON, YOUNG MAID. WE DID NOT MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.



BTMP BTMP BTMP

WE WERE ON THE SEA, AND BRAVERY MEANS NOTHING IN THE FACE OF GRAVITY. THUS, WE WERE PROMPTLY AND IGNOMINIOUSLY TOSSED INTO THE DRINK!

NOW, HAD WE OUR FEET PLANTED FIRMLY ON SOLID GROUND, THERE WERE NO ENEMIES WE FEARED TO FACE! NONE OUR COURAGEOUS BLADES COULD NOT BEST! BUT ALAS!



AND WITHOUT THOSE PUTS AROUND TO SPAR WITH, WELL, WE WERE GETTING BORED, TO BE FRANK.

SEE, WE WEREN'T GIVEN THE HONOR OF JOINING THE REST OF BEOWULF ON THEIR TRIP TO SIBERIA.



AND THIS WASN'T JUST ANY SHARK! NO, IT WAS THE LARGEST ONE THE WORLD HAD EVER SEEN! ALL FOUR OF US WERE SWALLOWED IN ONE GULP!

BUT THE DANGER DID NOT STOP THERE, FOR WHAT AWAITED THE POOR, BEDRAGGLED SURVIVORS OF THE SUNKEN GALLEON? A SHARK! A SHARK WHOSE GIANT, TOOTHY JAWS WERE JUST WAITING TO MAKE A MEAL OUT OF POOR LAND-LIBBERS LIKE US!

OH NO!!



NOW THE FOUR OF US, WE'VE GOT A FAIR FEW STORIES WE COULD SHARE. SO WE DECIDED TO DROP BY FOR A VISIT!

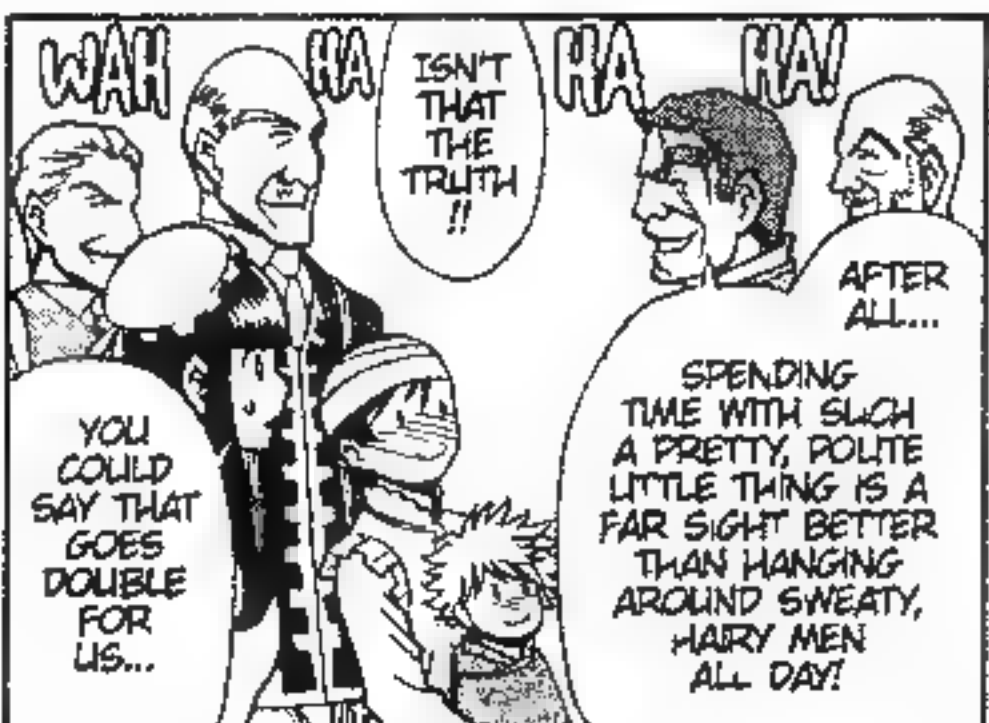
SO LITTLE YULHI! HERE TOLD US OF THIS LOVELY YOUNG LADY, AND HOW SHE VERY MUCH LOVED HEARING STORIES.



KNOWING THEM, THEY MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE DONE IT, AND THAT SCARES ME...

BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR THAT SHARK, IT HAD NOT SWALLOWED SIMPLE MEN, BUT WOLVES! AND WE, TOO, WERE HUNGRY! SO AS IT HAD EATEN US, WE ATE IT FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

NO WAY!!



YOU COULD SAY THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR US...

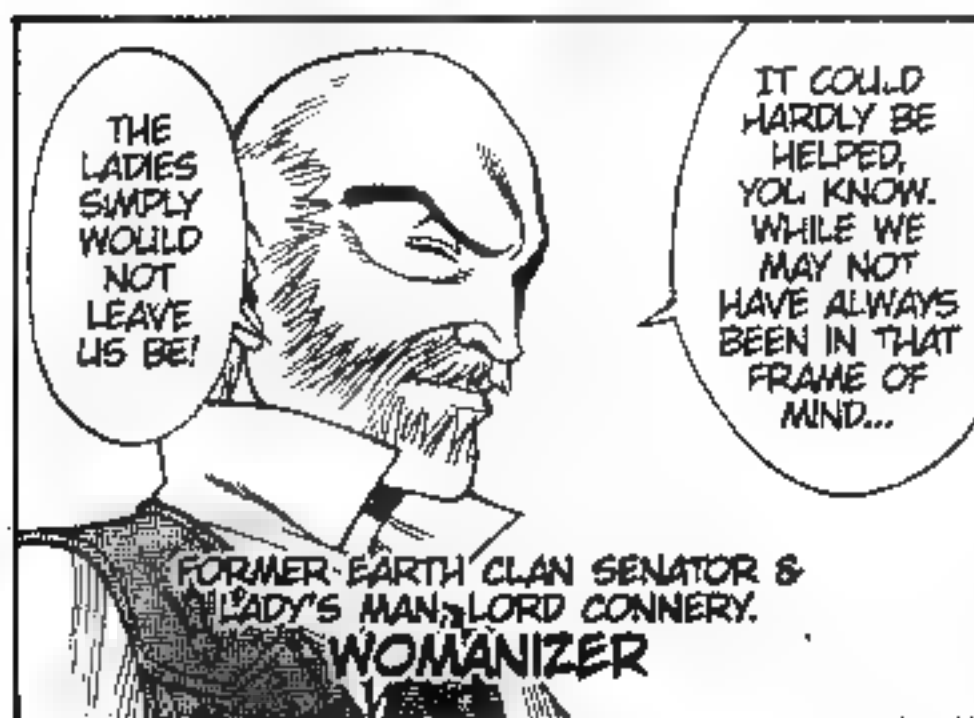
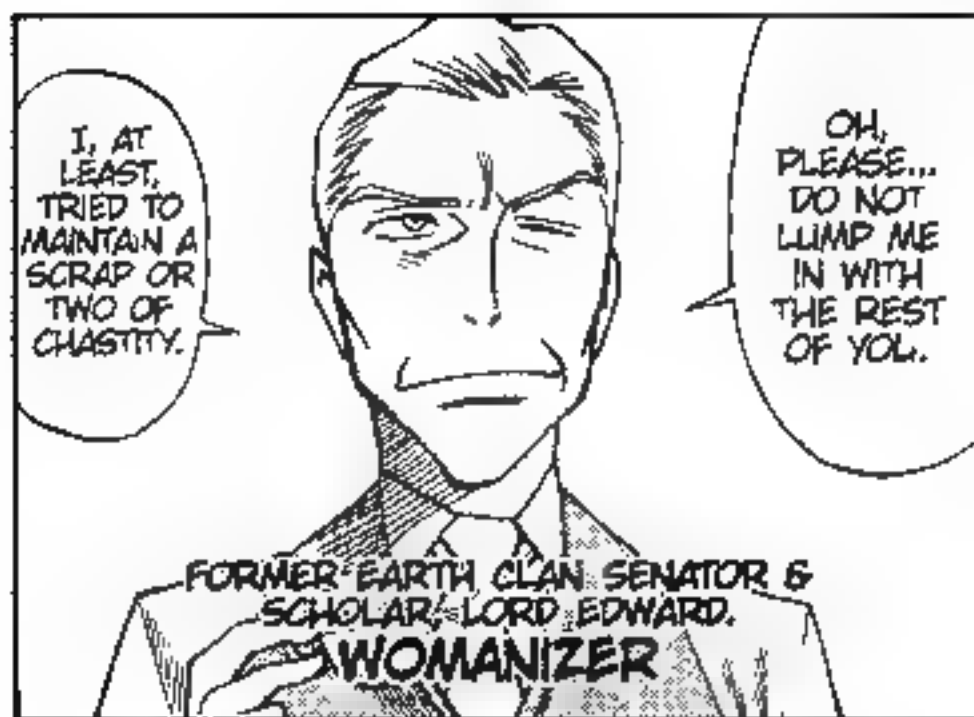
ISN'T THAT THE TRUTH!!

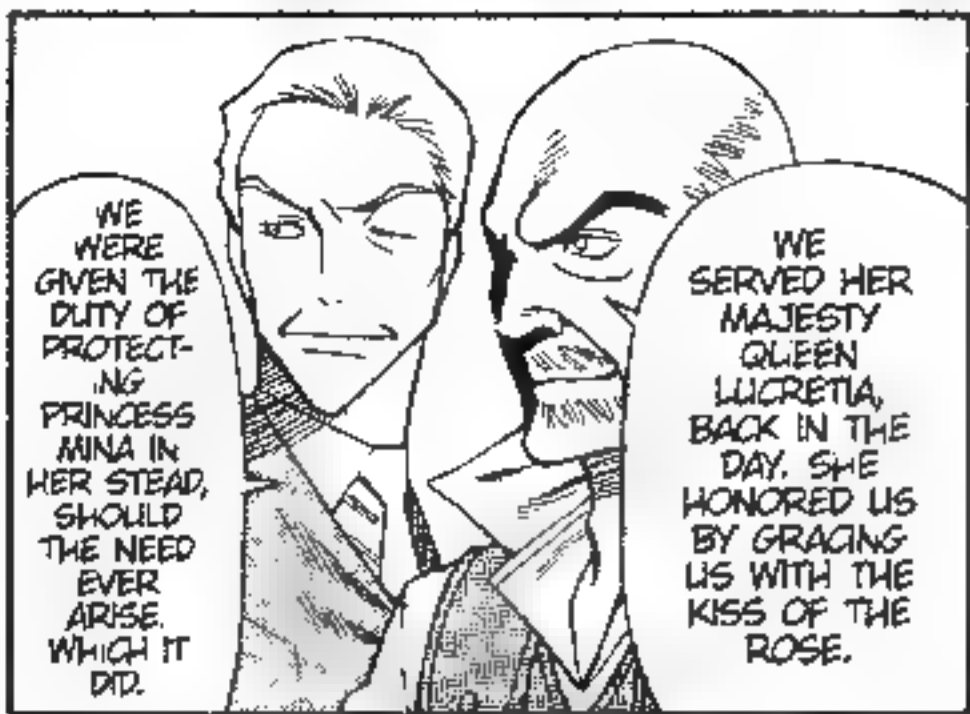
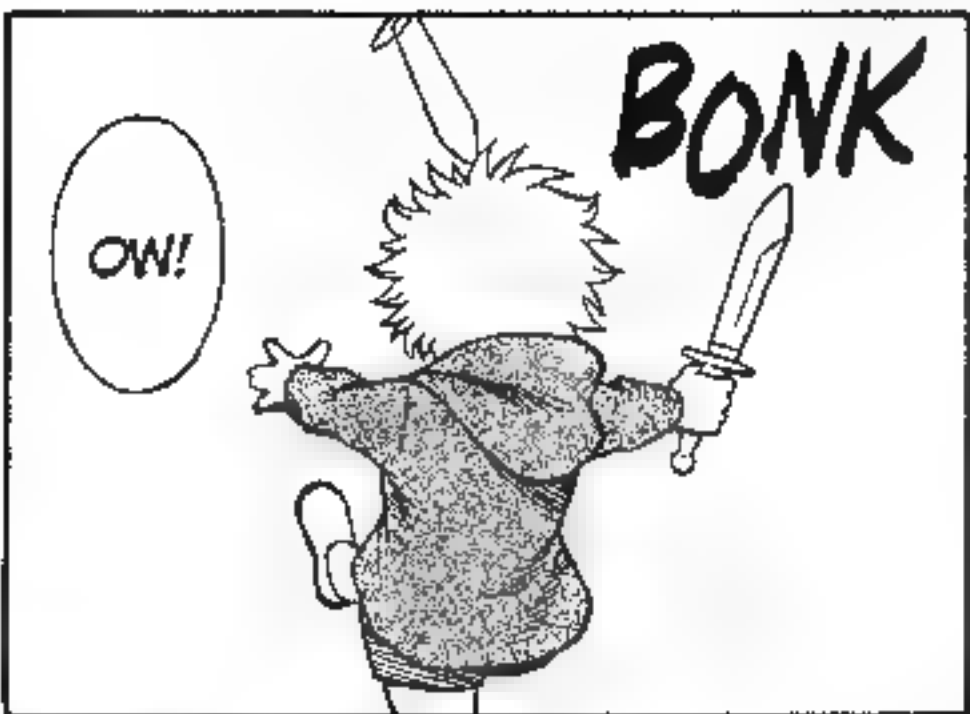
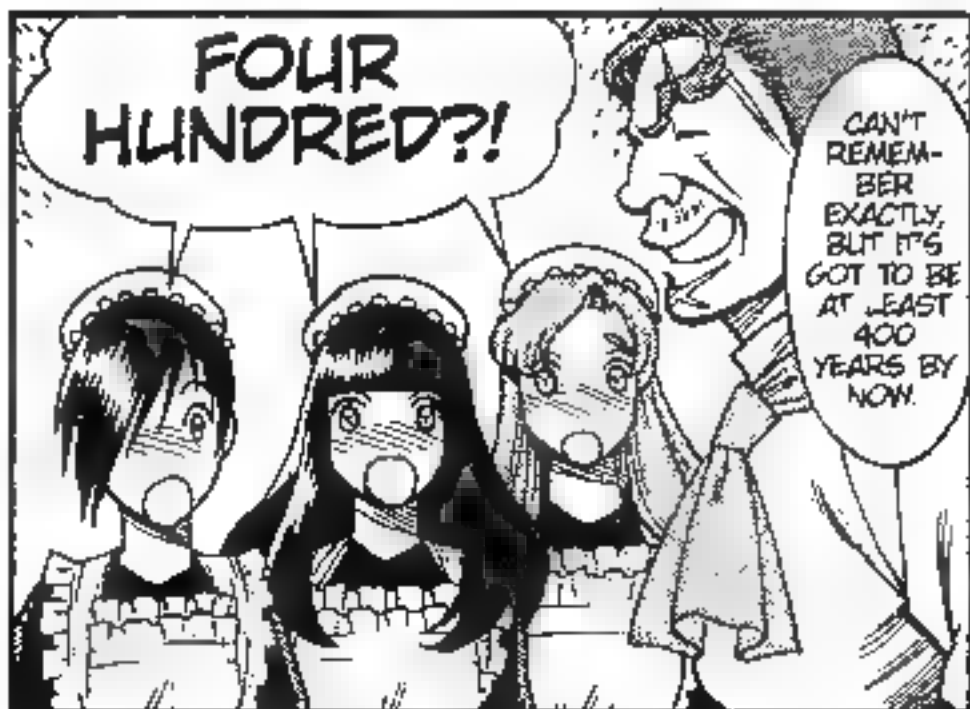
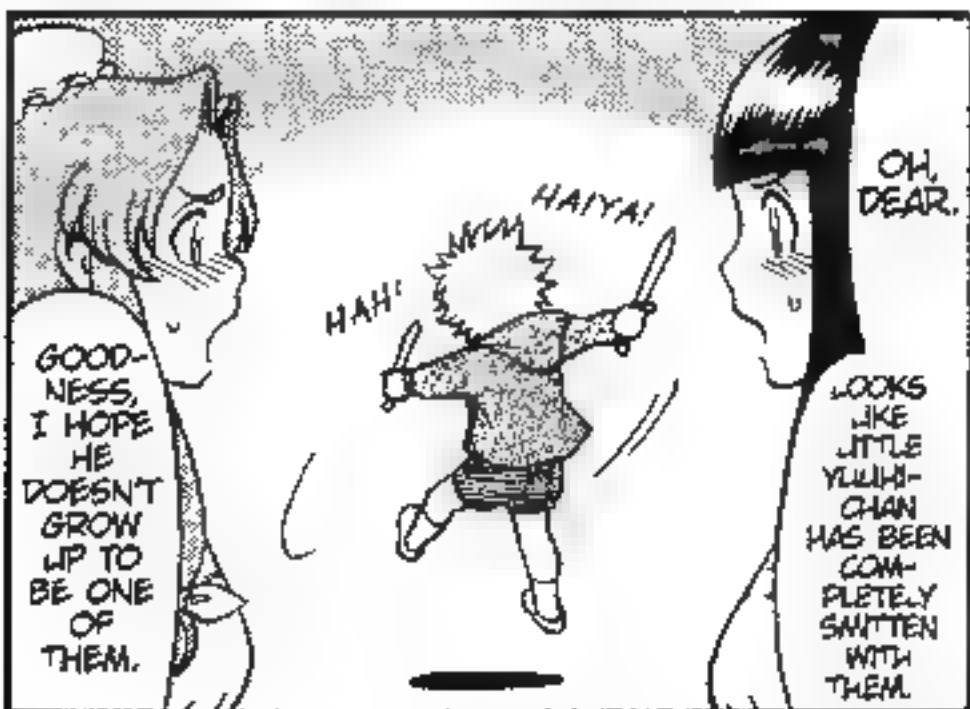
AFTER ALL...

SPENDING TIME WITH SUCH A PRETTY, POLITE LITTLE THING IS A FAR SIGHT BETTER THAN HANGING AROUND SWEATY, HARRY MEN ALL DAY!



*Mata Hari





Dance in the
Vampire Bund



THE WORLD'S NOT READY
FOR HER REIGN.

DANCE IN THE
**VAMPIRE
BUND**



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Dance in the Vampire Bund

Volume 10

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DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND VOL. 10

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



THE END

YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of
Dance in the Vampire Bund
Volume 10



This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!